



# WORTH TUNING IN

**Theme:** God the Holy Spirit guided people in accurately recording God's Word.

## I. God \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Our \_\_\_\_\_ for revelation (Eph. 4:17, 18; 2 Cor. 4:3–6)

Every person would be separated \_\_\_\_\_ from God if God didn't reveal how to be \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

God's revelation is not \_\_\_\_\_ in anyway; it gives us all we need to know to \_\_\_\_\_ Him and be \_\_\_\_\_ related to Him.

### B. God's \_\_\_\_\_ of revelation

#### 1. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:18–20)

God designed creation to reveal \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_.

Creation gives us proof that an intelligent creator \_\_\_\_\_, but creation doesn't tell us how to be \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

#### 2. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:1, 2, 14; 14:7–11; Heb. 1:1–4)

Jesus taught the truth that He and God the Father are \_\_\_\_\_. His life is a \_\_\_\_\_ about the Father.

#### 3. Through the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15, 16)

The Bible reveals \_\_\_\_\_ we need to know about God and our \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.

## II. God \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

### A. God communicated \_\_\_\_\_ words (Matt. 5:17, 18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21)

Jesus' promise concerning the fulfillment of the very words found in Scripture demands those very words must have \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. God communicated \_\_\_\_\_ words (2 Tim. 3:16)

When God moved writers to record His words, they recorded His \_\_\_\_\_ without any \_\_\_\_\_.



# Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

## MONDAY

*Read Ephesians 4:17, 18; 2 Corinthians 4:3–6*

Why does all of humanity need revelation from God? What is wrong with humanity?

What do you remember about the first time you understood your need for the gospel?

## THURSDAY

*Read 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.*

What did Timothy learn from Scripture?

The Thessalonians received Paul's message as the truth from God. How should you treat God's Word if you truly believe it came from God to you?

## TUESDAY

*Read Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:18–20.*

What have you learned about God from observing creation? What could you not learn about God from creation?

The earth is now under a curse because of Adam's sin. How does the curse affect creation's witness to God's existence and glory?

## FRIDAY

*Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.*

The Bible is inspired, or God-breathed, meaning God communicated specific words to human authors. Why is that important to know?

What would you say to someone who thinks the Bible is a bunch of human writings combined in one book?

## WEDNESDAY

*Read John 1:1, 2, 14; 14:7–11; Heb. 1:1–4.*

How did Jesus describe His relationship with God the Father?

What can you learn about God from observing Jesus' life?

## SATURDAY

*Read 2 Timothy 3:16.*

What happened after God communicated His specific words to Bible writers? Were people careful when making hand-written copies of the Bible?

Describe your trust in God's Word.

# Tough Questions Answered



## Can we be sure the Bible reflects the original writings?



The Bibles we have today were translated from copies of texts that were copies of other copies of copies. No one has the original Bible manuscripts, called autographs. That fact leads some people to believe we can't trust our Bibles. They think people must have purposefully changed the Bible texts to suit their own needs or inadvertently lost Bible books or added ones that were never inspired by God.

There are three solid reasons to trust that the Bibles we use today are God's inspired Word. First, there are over 24,000 ancient manuscripts of the Bible. Some of them are over 1,800 years old. When we compare Bible manuscripts to each other, there are some variations. But the differences are minor and have no bearing on Bible doctrine.

Second, many of those who wrote Scripture faced persecution and even death for the truths found in the texts they wrote. Had their texts been fraudulently written, they would have quickly admitted their hoax to avoid being punished for their beliefs. None of those who penned part of the Bible ever rejected God or admitted all the writing came from mere men.

Third, the testimony of the early Christian writers demonstrates a deep trust in and use of the Scriptures. Their writings have survived. In them we find much of the New Testament in the form of quotes. When their ancient quotes are compared to the manuscripts used as the basis for today's Bibles, there are no serious differences.

Within one hundred years after the last New Testament book was written, early Christians began to compile the books they believed belonged in the Bible. Their work resulted in the compilation of every book that appears in our Bibles today. They believed the books to be accurate and trustworthy. We should too. We have the complete Bible. It is demonstratively accurate and effective.

**When we compare Bible manuscripts to each other, there are some variations. But the differences are minor and have no bearing on Bible doctrine.**

# The Bible in Thousands of Languages



The Holy Spirit moved people to write God's Word using the languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Only a small part of the world's population can read those languages. So there is a need to translate the Bible into the languages people speak. That task is a lot harder than you might think. There are about 7,000 languages spoken around the world. We can't be sure of an exact number because not every people group has been identified and studied.

About half of the 7,000 languages lack any Bible translation work. Yet around 97 percent of the world's population has at least some of the Bible in a language they could understand. We should praise God for easy and free access to the entire Bible. Pray for those who have limited or no access to the Bible. Consider whether God is calling you to be a Bible translator. Maybe you could help with the more than 2,000 translation works going on today.

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## Memory Verse Review



### Memory Verse—2 Peter 1:20, 21

Peter, who wrote two books of the New Testament, understood he wasn't recording his own ideas. He, along with the rest of those who penned books of the Bible, recorded what God wanted them to record. The Holy Spirit guided their minds so their words reflected their personalities while also being the exact words God intended for them to record. Wind blowing a sailboat across the water serves as an illustration of the Holy Spirit's effect on the writers. The Holy Spirit bore them along so when they finished writing, not one word was wrong or out of place. The Bible writers successfully reached their "destinations."

1. How would you explain what the Bible is?
2. How confident should you be in the Bible's accuracy?
3. What does your use of the Bible say about your appreciation for it?

## Measuring Growth



From the day God created Adam, He began to reveal His truth to humanity. But after Adam sinned, humanity's need for God's truth changed. Every person would be separated forever from God if God didn't reveal how to be reconciled to Him. God reveals truth about Himself through His creation, but His revelation through Jesus and the Bible reveals all we need to know about Him. We can trust the Bible because the Holy Spirit inspired it. It contains God's specific, trustworthy words. We should therefore respect the Bible and seek to know it through diligent study.

Look for the following indicators that you treat the Bible as God's inspired Word.

1. I desire to learn how to study my Bible more effectively.
2. I am grateful for my Bible.
3. I turn to my Bible for answers to life's problems.

**Additional Memory Verses**—Matthew 5:17, 18; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.