**JOHNNIE COLEMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**BIBLE 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE**

**LESSON SHEET**

**Books: Bible – Harper Collins**

**Don’t Know Much About The Bible –Kenneth C. Davis**

1. **INTRODUCTION**
2. **What Is The Bible?**
3. **First you should know the Bible is not a single book and was not written with a 21st century audience in mind.**
4. The Bible is an anthology, a collection of sacred writings that are the products of many writers.
5. The Bible is an entire library that consists of an extraordinary gathering of many books of law, history, wisdom, poetry, philosophy, etc.
6. The Bible of the Jew is different from the Bible of the Roman Catholic, which is different from the Bible of a Protestant. In English there are more than 3,000 versions of the entire Bible or portion of the Bible.
7. **In its present form, the Bible is comprised of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures of two religions known as Judaism and Christianity.**
8. **The Hebrew Scriptures consisting of 39 books, emerged in phases:**

* **The Torah or the Pentateuch**
* **The Prophets**
* **The Writings**

1. **The Hebrew Bible or Scripture is more formally called “the Tanak”. The term Tanak is an acronym that include the three parts of the Hebrew Bible.**

* **Torah: The Law**
* **Nevi’im: The Prophets**
* **Ketuvim: The Writings**

1. **The Christian Scriptures consisting of 27 books, emerged in phases:**

* **The Gospels**
* **The History of The Early Church**
* **The Pauline letters**
* **The apocalypse**

1. **What Is A Canon?**

**The books in the Bible are called Cannons: Canon is the term used to designate the writings that a religious group considers official and authoritative. The word cannon come from he Greek word “Kanon” which originally meant “a reed”.**

* + - 1. The term Canon as it is applied to the Hebrew Bible, implies that it is the authorized collection of books recognized by the Jewish community.
      2. Calling it the **authorized collection** of books implies

there were other books as well and choices have

been made.

* + - 1. The **Jewish community** came to accept only a certain number of books as the ones through which they believed God spoke. However, not all Jews accepted the limits of this particular collection we now call the Hebrew Bible.
      2. The additional books are known as the **Apocrypha**. The

Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches accept them today as

sacred Scripture.

* 1. The **Apocrypha’s** are printed as an appendix in some Protestant

Bibles but are not recognized by Protestants as canonical.

* 1. Some of the books included in the Roman Catholic Bible are as follows:
* Esdras
* Tobit
* Judith
* Additions to the Book of Esther (Esther 10:4-10)
* Wisdom of Solomon (Wisdom)
* Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)
* Baruch, with the letter of Jeremiah (Baruch)
* Song of the Three Young Men (Daniel 3:24-90)
* Susanna (Daniel 13)
* Bel and the Dragon (Daniel 14) Prayer of Manasseh
* 1 Maccabees
* 2 Maccabees

1. **What Is A Testament?**
2. **Testament is another word for covenant – meaning an**

**agreement, contract or pact.**

1. **For Christians the Old Testament represented the ancient deal or “covenant” struck between God and his people. (pg 10)**
2. **In the New Testament Christians think they received a new “covenant” through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.**
3. **Who Are The Writers Of The Bible? 20-22**
4. **There are still many literalists who faithfully assert that the Bible is the “word of God,” dictated verbatim to “divinely chosen” individuals. However, most scholars now agree that there were at least four or five main authors, or groups of authors writing the Hebrew Scriptures.**
5. **The principal “authors” have been given names and are identified by five letters of the alphabet: J, E, D, P and R—they are:**
   1. **J – Jahwist**

* **J is the Hebrew Bible’s best storyteller, more interesting, more humorous, and more human than the others.**
* **J’s Yahweh (God) interacts with man easily and**

**direct. “J” told the more famous and folkloric version of the two creation accounts, which begins in Genesis 2. It is J’s Yahweh, who is walking in the Garden of Eden in the “cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8), a lovely poetic image, and discovers Adam and Eve hiding themselves, ashamed of their nakedness.**

* **“J” is also responsible for the song of Deborah,**

**an epic poem in the book of Judges about a**

**Jewish “woman warrior”.**

* 1. **E – Elohist**
     + - **“E” close on J’s heels is E, the Elohist. So called, because this author preferred to use the word *Elohim* for God. Although some scholars have placed E 850 and 800 BCE. Most agree that E is a much less colorful writer than “J”.**
       - **E’s contribution begins with the story of Abraham in Genesis 12.**
* **In the book of Judges, E tells a version of the Israelite heroine Deborah’s story in prose (J’s account was a poetic version) and some of the details of the two accounts differs slightly.** 
  1. **D – Deuteronomist**
* **“D” is known as the Deuteronomists, who most likely worked between 700 and BCE and were responsible for large portions of the book of Deuteronomy.**
* **“D” is also thought to have shaped the late Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings—the major “historical” works of Hebrew scripture that describe the conquest of Canaan and the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel.**
* **In Deuteronomy, D depicts Moses giving a series of speeches that urge Israel to follow the Torah, but the Law Moses offers in this section represents a revision of the earlier Law books.**
  1. **P- Priestly**
* **“P” is known as the Priestly authors, which include some of the most familiar words in western civilization—“In the beginning”, the Creation account found in Genesis 1 and the first version of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).**
* **P’s contribution was written sometime between 550 and 500 BCE. The P writer is highly concerned with the elaborate observances and duties of the ancient Jewish priesthood; P is responsible for nearly all of Leviticus. These writings are very dry and detailed obsessed.** 
  + - * **P was especially interested in codifying and justifying all of the ritual laws developed by the early Jewish priesthood, including the carefully worded descriptions of the Passover ritual, ordination ceremonies and the sacred chest that held the Ten Commandments.**
  + **P might as well been coded L for Law.**
  1. **R – Redactor**
* **“R” was the redactor, or editor who took the four existing strands, and spliced them together, probably around 400 BCE.**
* **The work of the redactor was fascinating because of the way so many different and even contradictory strands of scripture were woven together. The question is what, if any parts were edited out of the scripture.**

1. **Two Significant Events That Gave The Bible Status Were:** 
   * + 1. **Printing Press**

**The first significant event was the invention of the printing**

**press with its moveable type, by Johannes Gutenberg of**

**Mainz, Germany in the 15th century.**

**2. Protestant Reformation**

**The second significant event was the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century led by Martin Luther and John Calvin, both were Bible scholars in their own right.**

1. **Division Of The Bible Into Chapters And Verses**

**With the exception of the books of Psalms, most of the remaining books of the Bible were not originally divided into smaller divisions.**

1. **Chapters**

**The system of dividing biblical books into sections called chapters, was invented in the 13th century by Stephen Langsten who was then chancellor of the University of Paris.**

1. **Verses**

**The division of the chapters into smaller units of text was adopted from the system which had been used by Jewish scholars.**

**A Parisian printer of the 16th Century, Robert Estienne, notated verses as they are now in our Bible. a Parisian printer in the 16th century.**

1. **THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES (Old Testament)**
2. **Genesis –In The Beginning**
   * + 1. **The English title Genesis is derived from the Greek words Genesis Kosmou (origin of the cosmos).**
       2. **Genesis Covers time from the beginning of the world through early human history and the rise of civilization to the establishment God’s special relationship with the Patriarchs, Matriarchs and people of Israel Loc 847.**
       3. Stories such as we find in the early chapters of Genesis are

mostly **myths and sagas**. Applying such terms as “myth” to

Genesis in no way devalues or demeans the stories.

* + - 1. The deepest human questions give rise to creation myth. Who are we? What is the purpose of life? It is no surprise that virtually everyone have given thought to ultimate origins and every culture has shaped **creation myths**.
         1. **Creation Story- Two Stories**

**The creation story is meant to answer how the world came into existence. There are actually two creation stories in Genesis. They differ in style, order, facts, details—the only thing they share is that God appears in both of them. Pg 41-55**

* 1. **Adam and Eve – No Apple**

**Adam and Eve is meant to answer the questions of how did humankind start and how did we get to the condition we are in now.. 51-56**

* 1. **Cain and Abel**

**The story of Cain and Abel introduces many of the themes that will recur throughout Genesis and the Hebrew Scriptures. 57**

1. **Patriarchs and Matriarchs**
   * + 1. The Ancestral Story is the account of the **great patriarchs and matriarchs** of Israel, namely Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel and Joseph. These stories are the pre-history of the nation, the cultural genetics of the people.
       2. The Ancestral Story is organized into **three major story collections**; each called a cycle of stories because it revolves around a major character, respectively Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.
          1. The Abraham Cycle begins in **Genesis 11:27, 25:1**.

The Abraham Cycle dealt primarily with **fertility and off springs**, especially passing on the promises from father to son.

* + - * 1. The Jacob cycle is concerned with the same issues but from a slightly different angle. If there is more than one son, how should God’s promises and the family inheritance is passed on?
        2. The Joseph Cycle is a tale of **family rivalry and providential deliverance**. The Joseph cycle is also important because it gave the explanation of how and why the **Israelites ended up in Egypt.**

1. Exodus

The book of Exodus is the foundational book of Israel’s faith. It is here where you meet Moses—the deliverer. Exodus contains Israel’s **Declaration of Independence and National Constitution** in one book. 97

1. Leviticus and Numbers 133
   * + 1. Both Leviticus and Numbers are predominantly concerned with matters of **ritual, sacrifice and priesthood**.
       2. Leviticus in its entirety belongs to the Priestly tradition of the

**Pentateuch**. It consists of various collections of religious laws.

* + - 1. Numbers divides into three sections on the basis of **content and geography.** The first section is a continuation from the Book of Leviticus of the Priestly Code. The second and third sections resume from the Book of Exodus the narrative of Israel’s experience in the wilderness.

1. Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy (second law) is unique in the Pentateuch in its consistent and uniform style. It consists almost entirely of Moses’ Sermons to the Israelites before they entered the Promise Land.

1. Joshua and Judges
2. The book of Joshua is the story of how the Israelites entered the **land of Canaan** in order to create a homeland.
3. The book of Judges finds Israel in the **transitional period** after the great leadership of Moses and Joshua and before the coming era of the **monarchy**.
4. Samuels and Kings 173-187
5. As a whole the books of Samuel trace the last days of the period of the Judges and the beginning of the **monarchy**.
6. The books of Kings trace the history of Israel from its height during the reign of Solomon to its demise by the **Babylonians**.
7. Role Of The Prophet 219-259

The Prophet’s essential task is to declare the word of God to the here and now; to disclose the future in order to illume what is **involved in the present**.

1. Esther 263

The Book of Esther is known to Jewish readers as the source of the Purim festival—written sometimes after 200 BCE.

1. Job 267

Job is one of the eleven books in the third section of the Hebrew Bible. Job sets out to explain the mystery of why the righteous suffer.

1. Psalms 275

Psalms is the first book in the Hebrew “Writings”. It is a collection of 150 hymns or more.

1. Ecclesiastes 297

Ecclesiastes is not history, prophetic or a parable it provides a philosophical approach to life.

1. Daniel

Daniel was written to strengthen and comfort the Jews of Jerusalem who were suffering under the oppressive Kung Antiochus IV (175-164 BCE), who was one if the Seleucid kings who ruled the Jews.

1. BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS – Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical 319
2. The Greek word Apocrypha means those that are hidden away. The books are usually between the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and the Christian Scriptures (New Testament).
3. In the Roman Catholic Bible these books are interspersed among other canonical books and are referred to as the Deuterocanonical books , loosely meaning “books added to the canon”.
4. CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES (New Testament) 330
   1. Common Beliefs

The collection of writings called the New Testament is held together by a common belief shared by its writers. They believed that Jesus of Nazareth represented a decisive turning point in God’s relationship with humanity.

* 1. The Gospels
     1. The first four books that are placed at the beginning of the Christian Testament are called the Gospels.
     2. The English word “gospel” is derived from the Anglo Saxon word “god spell—for good tidings or good news.
     3. The canonical Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John--each Gospel is a distinctive theological view of Jesus.

1. The Gospel of mark (68-70 C.E)-- The Gospel of Mark was the first gospel written.
2. The Gospel of Matthew made use of mark’s gospel, other traditions about Jesus, and a collection of Jesus’ sayings.
3. The Gospel of Luke modified the expectation of the return of Jesus which became less important that the fact he would return.
4. The Gospel of John is known as the spiritual gospel.
   1. The Life and Ministry of Jesus 350-417

The people of Jesus’ day hoped for a military messiah (anointed one) who would vanquish the oppressors from the land of Israel. This expectation had its beginning in the words of Israel’s prophet who proclaimed that the Davidic dynasty would be restored and a righteous monarch would one day rule.

1. We know very little about the youth and early manhood of Jesus. He lived during those years in Nazareth a small unimportant town.
2. There were at least six other children in his family. (Mark 6:3; Matthew 13:55) The four brothers were named James, Joses, Judas, and Simon; there is also reference to sisters in the plural indicating at least two of them.
3. Being raised in a Jewish home, Jesus was aware of the heritage, aspirations, and sense of discontent under Roman rule.
4. Reference to John the Baptist is the first point of convergence of all the gospels.
5. John’s work was an effective and successful ministry in its own right.
6. He baptized in water (Jordan River) those who repented of their sins.
7. Jesus may have been a follower of john. He probably adopted John’s theme of the immediacy of the Kingdom.

d. John’s baptism of Jesus was a decisive point in Jesus life.

* It is regarded as the point at which Jesus realized that he is the expected Messiah
* After his baptism Jesus retired to the wilderness to fast and pray. (Matt 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Mark 1:12)

1. In the Synoptic Gospels the theme of Jesus’ preaching was that the Kingdom of God was at hand. In the Gospel of John the theme is eternal life.
2. To Jesus the time has come that God would exercise rule over His people. Hence, it was urgent that the people repent of their rebellion and prepare for the new day.
3. The message of the Kingdom is a message about God, who is the central actor in Jesus picture of life and history. God is also the present living power that shoes itself in the acts of Jesus.
4. Jesus called twelve men as his special disciples (learners, pupils). They were to be with him, learn his teaching, catch his Spirit, and later extend his ministry.
5. He used common things to illustrate the truth that he taught.
6. There was radical opposition to Jesus and his teachings. His message evoked a hostile reaction from almost anyone who had a position of leadership and authority.
   1. Pharisees: The Pharisees viewed Judaism as a spiritual

religion independent of nationalism and politics.

* 1. Sadducees: The Sadducees were the priestly aristocratic party in Judaism.
  2. The Zealots: The term Zealots is used to designate the

more radical and warlike Jewish rebels who fought

against foreign rule, especially the Romans.

* 1. Essenes: The Essenes were an ascetic communal group

that adhered to Levitical purity laws.

* 1. Resurrection of Jesus

1. The resurrection of Jesus is the starting point of the history of the church and the climax of the gospel.
2. Jesus’ resurrection vindicated his teaching, rallied his

disciples, and gave him a permanent place at the center of their

faith.

1. After the resurrection, the next event of the emerging church was the establishment of the disciples in Jerusalem.
   1. Acts of the Apostles
      1. The Early Church 421
   2. The main source of information concerning the early decades of the church is the Book of Acts. The theme of the Book of Acts is the spread of the gospel which had universal outreach.
   3. The Acts of the Apostles covers approximately thirty years that corresponds with the notorious reigns of the Roman Emperors Caligula, Claudius and Nero.
   4. Jesus earliest followers faced persecution and death either at the hands of Jewish authorities or the most power government on earth.
   5. One of the earliest members of the growing followers of Jesus, Stephen was tried by the Sanhedrin or Jewish Council for Blasphemy.
      1. The Apostle Paul
         * 1. Paul a Pharisee from Tarsus is introduced as Saul, named for the ancient Israelite king – he is watching the coats of the crowd who stoned Stephen.
           2. From birth he had both a Roman-Greco name, Paul (Paulus), which he used in all his letters. He was also known by his Hebrew name, Saul, prior to his conversion.
           3. Saul on his way to Damascus to arrest followers of “The Way” experienced a transforming vision that led him to start preaching the gospel of Jesus.
           4. The Apostle Paul did more to extend Christianity and to state the gospel in world terms than any other leader in the early church.
2. The Epistles of Paul 433
3. Before the Gospels were written and circulated, letters also called the “epistles” provided the only means to circulate the news about Jesus.
4. Greek for epistle is “epistello” meaning “to send to” was viewed as more of a formal letter than a personal message. The terms epistle and letter are generally interchangeable today.
5. Pastoral Letters 447

The “Pastoral Letters” are addressed to disciples and helpers of Paul-- they deal with the running of the church and the care of the Christian faithful.

1. General Epistles 451

The General Epistles were written to either support the Christians being persecuted or to keep in line those who were starting to wander. They reflect the fears in the face of persecution and the everyday concerns of the early church.

1. Revelation 461

The author of Revelations starts off in the form of a letter to the seven churches in Asia Minor. The date of Revelation is crucial to understanding the book’s strange symbols.

HANDOUT- Students use with homework assignments

BIBLE 1: INTRODUCTION THE BIBLE

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1. **INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**
2. **The main requirement for learning to study the Bible inductively is the willingness to slow down and really look at what the scriptures are saying—you must be come a detective and examine the facts as they are presented.**
3. **Inductive Bible study uses the Bible itself as the primary source of information about the Bible.**
4. **Inductive Bible study draws you into a personal interaction with the scriptures.**
5. **THE THREE IMPORTANT PARTS OF INDUCTIVE STUDY**
6. **OBSERVATION: What Does A Passage *Say*?**

**Observation involves learning to see precisely what the passage says. In other words, we are asking ourselves the question: "What does the passage *say .* We will learn to look for what’s in the text. The more you read and get to know about the book in the bible, the more insights you will have.**

1. **INTERPRETATION: What Does The Passage *Mean*?**

**This part can only be implemented after giving a passage sufficient observation. It is at this point that you can use cross-references, word studies, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Metaphysical Bible dictionary and the Revealing Word.**

1. **APPLICATION: Application involves putting into practice what we have observed and interpreted. How does the meaning of this passage *Apply* to your student and or congregation? The ultimate goal should be to help your audience in transforming their lives.**

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1. **INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY - CONTINUED**
2. **WHO**
3. **Who Wrote It?**
4. **Who Are The Major Characters?**
5. **WHAT**
6. **What Are The Main Events?**
7. **What Are The Major Ideas?**
8. **WHERE**
9. **Where Was The Thing Done?**
10. **Where Was This Said?**
11. **WHY**
12. **Why Was There A Need For This To Be Written?**
13. **Why Was This Mentioned?**
14. **WHEN**
15. **When Was It Written?**
16. **When Did The Event Take Place?**
17. **When Will It Happen?**
18. **HOW**
19. **How Is It Done?**
20. **How Did It Happen?**
21. **How Is This Truth Illuminated**

**EXERCISE l - THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO UMMMMMMM**

**SAMPLE SHEET**

**ABRAHAM: I AM HEARING VOICES**

**INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY - APPLY THE 5 W’S and H**

**Who, What, When, Where, Why, How Read Genesis 12: 1-8 and apply the 5W’s and H.**

**WHO IS BEING SPOKEN TO? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WHAT IS BEING TOLD TO HIM? (Make a list)**

**WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?**

**WHERE DID ALL THIS HAPPEN?**

**WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?**

**These are questions that you should ask yourself as you make your way through the text. Try and exhaust all the options for each word .**

**HANDOUT: TEST YOUR BIBLE SKILLS**

1. **the English word “Bible” comes from the Greek word \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**which means the books.**

1. **There are two parts to the Bible the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and**

**the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

1. **The Old Testament is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
2. **The New Testament is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
3. **There are a total of \_\_\_\_ books in the Christian Bible.**
4. **The New Testament has \_\_\_\_ Books.**
5. **The Old Testament has \_\_\_\_ Books.**
6. **The Bible is a collection of ancient writings about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
7. **What is the Bible?**
8. **Name the four strands of writings found in the Bible.**
9. **Define Canon.**
10. **Which of the following names is not a book in the Bible?**

**a. Nehemiah; b. Jude; c. Hezekiah; d. Joel; e. Song of Solomon**

**HANDOUT: TEST YOUR BIBLE SKILLS**

1. **How Many Books are in the Christian Bible?**
   1. **a. 27 b. 39 c. 66 d. 46 e. 45**
2. **What Is The Pentateuch?**
3. **How Many Books In The Pentateuch?**
   1. **a. 5 b. 6 c. 10 d. 8 e. 12**
4. **Name The Books In The Pentateuch.**
5. **Name The Books In The Old Testament Known As History.**
6. **Name The Book(s) In The New Testament Known As History.**
7. **Name The Books Known As The Wisdom Literature:**

**HANDOUT: TEST YOUR BIBLE SKILLS**

1. **Name The Books Known As The Major Prophets.**
2. **Name The Books Known As The Minor Prophets.**
3. **Name The Prophecy Book In The New Testament**
4. **Name The Books Known As The Gospel.**
5. **Name The Pauline Epistles**
6. **Name The General Epistles**

**HANDOUT: TEST YOUR BIBLE SKILLS**

1. **Who was the first king of Israel?**

**Saul; b. Solomon; c. David; d. Samuel; e. Moses**

1. **In their later years, Sarah and Abraham had a son who they called "laughter." What was his actual name?**
2. **Samuel; b. Moses; c. Isaac; d. Jacob; e. Ishmael**
3. **Who of the following is not a prophet from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)**

**Elisha; b. Elijah; c. Aaron; d. Isaiah; e. Joel**

**30. Which of these is the name of a book in the Christian Scriptures (New Testament)** ?

a. Judges; b. Malachi; c. Deuteronomy; d. Hebrews; e. Isaiah

**31. According to the Bible, who of these was one of Jesus’ 12 apostles,**

a. Paul; b. Matthew; c. Luke; d. Timothy; e. Silas

**32. How many temptations did Jesus endure in the wilderness?**

a. one; b. two; c. three; d. four; e. five

**HANDOUT: TEST YOUR BIBLE SKILLS**

**33. Sort the following events in chronological order:**

**a.** The Holy Spirit descends on believers at Pentecost; **b**. John has a vision on the Island of Patmos; **c**. Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River; **d.** Paul, Barnabas and Mark are sent out on a mission by the church; **e.** Peter denies that he knows Jesus.

**a. \_\_\_\_ b.\_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_\_ e.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**34. Sort the following events in chronological order:**

**a.** The arrest of Paul in Jerusalem; **b**. Mary’s response to the Angel; **c.** Nicodemus’ conversation about rebirth; **d.** Peter’s denial of Jesus.

**a. \_\_\_\_ b.\_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**35. In which book of the Bible are the most commonly cited version of the Ten Commandments?**

a. Isaiah; b. Exodus; c. Genesis; d. Numbers; e. Matthew