**1. Motivate**

Video

**2. Transition**

The Bible is:

* God’s Holy Word
* One unified book that is comprised of 66 individual books
* Divided into 2 Testaments (Old Testament and New Testament)
* Written over a period of 1,500 years (Moses 1400 BC to John 90 AD)
* Written by 40 different authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit
* Revealing, exalting, and pointing mankind to its central character…Jesus
* Written in several different literary types: Historical, Poetical, Wisdom, Prophetical/Apocalyptic, and Epistle/Letter
* A grand narrative of God’s redemptive story, revealing His nature, character, and purpose

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 **GOD’S WORD IS INSPIRED, INERRANT, AND AUTHORITATIVE**

Listen for how the Bible is to be used.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Paul said that Scripture is “God-breathed” … how is that different from dictating to the writers?

* God’s Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds
* He gave them the ideas, the concepts
* we can see how they used their own vocabulary and their own style
* they weren’t robots or dictating machines

⇨ God still intends to communicate to all people who He is and what He requires

⇨ He has the power to do that through men and women who submit to Him

Why is Scripture powerful and authoritative?

* it is “God-breathed”, God gave the Truth to men to record
* it is dynamic – it communicates to us what we need to hear/know when we need it
* it is dependable
* it is consistent

What did Paul say that Scripture was useful for?

* for teaching, rebuking. correcting
* training in righteousness
* equipping a godly person for every good work

What kind of encouragements and positive influences did you have as a youngster to read and apply God's Word to your life?

* example of parents reading Bible, praying
* SS teacher who gave stickers to memorize scripture at age 4, 5
* School used to have Release Time Religious Educ – Mrs. Knittle used to faithfully teach Bible stories, give little rewards for scripture memorization
* Youth workers in summer camps, Youth for Christ leaders

Consider a time when the Bible has rebuked or corrected you.

* Realized you were spending too much money/time/energy in some activity
* God’s Word revealed you needed to repent
* Gave you a verse to help you quit worrying
* You read a promise that God would solve your problem
* You were corrected on a point of theology

How can parents and grandparents instill this attitude and usage of the scriptures in a child?

* practice it in your own lives,
* talk about it in the making of decisions and value judgments *See Deut. 6:6, 7*
* share often what God spoke to you about in a Bible passage, in a sermon, in a SS lesson
* ask young people about their opinion of a sermon or SS (be willing to listen)
* do NOT use it as a club – Mrs. Walton made the children memorize verses as punishment
* instead give positive reinforcement (Bible Memorization Association)

3.2 SCRIPTURE IS NOT YOUR STORY, IT’S ABOUT JESUS.

Listen for Jesus’ revelation to the disciples.

Luke 24:44-48 “He (Jesus) told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. 46 He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, 47 and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.”.

When did the disciples finally understand the Scriptures?

* Jesus had to explain to them
* remember what I told you before
* this is what I was talking about
* all of scripture actually points to these events

Note the divisions of the Old Testament as Jesus referred to them.

* The law of Moses. These are the first five books of the Old Testament, also called the Pentateuch.
* The prophets. This includes the “former prophets”—Joshua through 2 Kings—and the “latter prophets”—Isaiah through Malachi.
* The psalms. This section is also called the “writings,” which is comprised of all the remaining Old Testament books. This section is also referred to by the first—and largest—book in it: the Psalms.

Why do you think it would be important for Jesus to refer to the Old Testament Scriptures in His explanations to the disciples?

* they were good Jews
* that was the only Bible they had
* He wanted to show them that He was fulfilling God’s plan, not departing from it
* He knew they needed scriptural foundation for their future task of communicating these Truths to everyone
* even we today are better able to understand that all of this was part of God’s plan

What elements of the message of salvation do you see in these Old Testament verses?

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:11-12).

“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending disaster” (Jonah 4:2)

* God’s infinite love, underserved favor, compassion
* forgiveness, removal of our sins and their penalty
* God’s desire for and accomplishment of dealing with our sin problem so He can have a personal relationship with us, even though we were sinners

How would you summarize the grand story of Scripture for an unbeliever?

* God was at work over the whole history of mankind
* His plan was accomplished through a particular group of people He chose
* even though they were imperfect and they were often attacked by other nations, God accomplished His purposes
* He taught mankind the penalty of sin and the solution – substitutionary death
* Then God provided the Perfect Sacrifice, His Son, Jesus – the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world

What does this passage teach us about God’s role in our understanding of the gospel?

* God’s Holy Spirit illuminates meanings and implications of what we read
* God uses teachers, Bible scholars, and preaching to help us understand
* Scripture contains God’s Truth, He will convict/convince us of what we need to know and what we need to apply in our lives

3.3 GETTING A GRIP ON SCRIPTURE, SO IT CAN GET A GRIP ON YOU

Listen for a metaphor.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*”*

How is Scripture like a sword?

* sharp
* double edged
* penetrates into the soul and spirit

What is God’s Word able to judge?

* thoughts
* intentions of the heart
* motivations

Consider the ways God’s Word can “get a grip” on us:

* Hearing God’s Word
  + When it is taught, preached
* Reading the Bible
  + Cultivate the personal discipline
  + Set aside time each day
* Studying God’s Truth
  + Find a study method
  + Take notes
  + Do word studies
* Memorizing God’s Word
  + Favorite verses
  + Verses you can use to explain salvation
  + When you are confronted with a problem, God brings them to mind
* Meditating on what God says
  + Fill your mind with God’s Truth
  + In your study, stop and consider implications
* Applying God’s Word
  + Is God telling you a sin to avoid
  + can you apply a promise to current situation
  + use what you read and studied as a prayer
  + maybe God is prompting you to involvement in some ministry