Lesson 1 The Drama of Redemption
An Organized Look at the Bible

**OLD TESTAMENT**
- **LAW:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **PROPHETS:**
  - Former Prophets—Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
  - Latter Prophets—
    - Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
    - Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- **WRITINGS:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**NEW TESTAMENT**
- **GOSPELS:** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- **GOOD NEWS HISTORY:** Acts
- **EPISTLES:**
  - Pauline Epistles—Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
  - General Epistles—Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1,2, & 3 John, Jude
- **APOCALYPSE:** Revelation

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Introduction

Although the Bible is made up of many books, it is still one book with one theme and one Author. We often read it in little chunks, one verse or chapter at a time. It’s important, however, for us to remember that these small pieces are part of a larger story. The story is a drama of how God saves and restores His people through Jesus Christ and brings them back into a loving relationship with Himself. This course will help us recognize and understand this great drama by explaining how the beautiful relationship between God and His people slowly unfolds in history. It is exciting for us to remember, as we read this story, that it is our story. Since God has called us to be His people, we do not simply watch this drama from the bleachers—we are in the drama!

About the Course

1. This course will help you see the Bible as one book with one main story.
2. Throughout this course, you will learn several important tools for interpreting Scripture properly. These tools will help you to better understand and apply Scripture to your own life.
3. This course is a survey of the Bible. This means that we will be doing an overview of the themes and stories in the Bible. We don’t have time to look at every book in depth, but the tools you will learn will help you read all the books of the Bible.
4. Sometimes we will review the things that we have learned in earlier lessons. It will help if you keep all your lessons so you can look up anything you don’t remember exactly.
5. The Bible passages used in this course were taken from the New International Version of the Bible (NIV). It will be easier if you use an NIV for this course, especially for answering the fill-in-the-blank questions. Your introductory packet explains how to get your own copy.

God wants us to know Him and to honor Him as God. Before going any further, take a moment to ask God to help you as you study His Word.

The Bible is a big book, but it’s divided into smaller pieces. This makes it easier for us to look at. Open your Bible and look at the Table of Contents at the front. It is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the beginning of a great drama. It tells us the story of how God created the world and how humans fell into sin. The drama continues when God promises to send a deliverer who would save humans from sin and death. Bit by bit, the story unfolds as God reveals this promise to His chosen people, the Israelites. The Old Testament always points forward to

MORE DETAIL

To fulfill means to bring to completion. God’s unfolding promises in the Old Testament were fulfilled, or brought to completion, by Jesus Christ.
2 Survey of the Bible–Lesson 1

the **fulfillment** of God’s promise. The drama continues into the New Testament, which contains what the Old Testament points forward to—the life, death and resurrection of this Deliverer. Each of these two **testaments** is further divided into **books**, which were written by many people over many years. The Old Testament books can be grouped according to the law, the prophets and the writings. The New Testament has gospels, letters and a vision, or apocalypse. (For a further look at this, see the flowchart on the first page of this lesson). Remember, even though there are many books in the Bible, the Bible tells just one story.

1. Looking at the Table of Contents in your Bible, how many books (total) are there in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible? ________

2. How many books are in the Old Testament? ________

3. How many books are in the New Testament? ________

4. The Bible contains many books, but tells just ________ story.

God used human authors to write what He said. All of these different writings (books) put together is what we call the Bible. Let’s take a look at how God used humans to write down the words He instructed them to.

5. Exodus 24:4 says, “Moses then ____________ down everything the ____________ had ______________.”

6. 2 Peter 1:21 says, “For prophecy never had its origin in the human ________, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the __________ ____________.”

7. After reading these verses, who is the author of the Bible? Explain your answer.

Even though many people had a hand in writing the books of the Bible, God stood behind each of them, directing (inspiring) them by His Holy Spirit. Because it is God’s book, we can be confident that the Bible is completely true and dependable. It is our highest authority for faith and life.
8. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that “_______ Scripture is _________ - breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, _______________ and training in _________________ , so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every ___________ _____________ .”

9. What does Psalm 12:6 say about the words of the LORD? Please read the verse and respond in your own words below.

Reading the Bible is different than reading other books because the Bible is God’s Word. As the Holy Spirit directed men to write what God said, the Holy Spirit also helps us understand those words. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand—both in our heads and in our hearts—the things that He wrote in the Bible.

10. Read John 14:26. According to this passage, who or what helps us understand what God says to us? Circle one answer below.

A. Our own hard work  
B. The Holy Spirit of God  
C. The stars and astrology  
D. Our friends and family


God’s Word, the Bible, is one book recording one story of God’s mighty acts as well as the explanation of those mighty acts.

God acts and records those acts with words. His Word, the Bible, is God’s own explanation of His mighty acts. God acts and records His acts! And even though there are many smaller books in the Bible, the Bible is one big book that tells just one story, or drama. The drama that draws all of the Bible’s many books together is *redemption*. It is important to remember that God’s plan of redemption is shown to us only a small bit at a time throughout history. God shows more of His plan as time slowly moves on. As Old Testament history moved forward, so did God’s plan of redemption.

* An asterisk (*) indicates a Word to Remember.
Let’s begin by figuring out exactly what redemption means.

11. Read Psalm 106:10 and fill in the blanks below.

   He __________ them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the __________ he ____________ them.

12. Read Deuteronomy 7:8 and fill in the blanks below.

   But it was because the LORD __________ you and kept the ___________ he swore to your ancestors that he brought you _______ with a mighty hand and ______________ you from the land of ___________ , from the power of Pharaoh __________ of Egypt.

13. Read John 8:34-36 and then fill in the blanks below.

   Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a ________ to __________ . . . So if the ________ sets you ________ , you will be __________ indeed.”

14. Read Titus 2:13-14 and then fill in the blanks below.

   Jesus Christ . . . gave himself for us to __________ us from all __________________________ . . .

15. Who alone can redeem us? Circle one answer below.

   A. Our family can redeem us.
   B. We can redeem ourselves by doing good things.
   C. Jesus Christ can redeem us.
   D. Pharaoh can redeem us.

16. How are you redeemed, or saved? (Hint: see Ephesians 2:8-9)

   . . . by ___________ through ____________ . . .

17. Based on the previous verses, circle the one correct answer from the following list:

   A. I can be redeemed only by grace, through true faith in Jesus.
   B. I can be redeemed by believing that God exists.
   C. I can be redeemed by doing good works.
   D. I can be redeemed by trying my best to be a good person.

MORE DETAIL

Knowledge + confidence + being sure = true faith
18. Read Job 19:25-27 and describe Job’s hope in his (and our!) Redeemer.


When we say that God redeems us, we mean that He rescues us from our guilt and bondage to sin, and frees us from its eternal consequences, making us willing and able to live for Him. When God redeems us, He sets us free.

God’s relationship with His people contains promises. God makes promises to His people, and His people make promises in return. These promises, taken together, are called a *covenant. A covenant is the partnership God establishes with His people to carry out His kind, gracious purposes. God is the leading partner—He must come to us before we can go to Him.

As Bible history moves forward, the drama unfolds, telling us more and more about the relationship between God and His people. This relationship is a covenant relationship, which we will look into more in later lessons. For now, here are some verses to help explain covenant.

19. Remember this definition: The covenant in the Bible is the ___________________ that God establishes with His ______________ to carry out His gracious ____________________.

20. Read the statement below, and then circle whether it is TRUE or FALSE. If it is false, rewrite the sentence so that it is true.

According to Exodus 6:6-7, God promised that He would take Israel as His people and be their God.

21. According to Joshua 24:24, what did God’s people, Israel, promise Him?

   We will _____________ the LORD our God and ____________ him.
22. As we read the Bible, it is clear that only God is perfectly faithful to the covenant promise. Fill in the blanks to see how 2 Timothy 2:13 explains this.

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, ______ remains _______________, for he ______________ disown himself.

23. Psalm 25 talks about the relationship between God and His people. Fill in the blanks of the verse from Psalm 25 below which directly addresses these promises.

Psalm 25:10 All the ___________ of the ___________ are ___________ and ________________ toward those who ___________ the demands of his ________________.

24. Read Psalm 25:8-9 and describe how reading and studying the Bible can help us stay focused on our covenant relationship with God.

25. God’s covenant love lasts forever! Read Psalm 136, reflect on it for five minutes and check the box below when finished. If you’re not sure what to think about, here are some questions to guide your thoughts:

- What does this psalm tell us about who God is and what He is like?
- How does God relate to His people?
- Does this affect your words and actions? How?

☐ Check here when you are finished.

26. Circle the three answers below that are examples of God’s love for His people, according to Psalm 136.

A. He leads His people through the wilderness.
B. He strikes down great kings.
C. He lets His people do whatever they want.
D. He frees His people from hostile enemies.

27. God has proved that He can rescue His people from any situation. What situations or areas in your life remind you of your need of God’s redemption? Explain below, and then ask God to continue His work of redemption in your life.

28. God is the faithful covenant, or promise, keeper. No matter what, He keeps His promises to His people. What does this mean for you when you are not faithful to God (see 2 Thessalonians 3:3)? Do God’s promises to you fail when you fail?
In This Lesson We Learned That . . .

- There are many books in the Bible, but it is still one book written by one ultimate Author—God!
- The main drama of the Bible is redemption. To be redeemed by Jesus means to be rescued from our guilt and sin, released from the slavery to sin and freed to live for God.
- God has established a relationship with His people. This relationship is based on promises. These promises make up a covenant, which is the partnership God establishes with His people to carry out His kind, gracious purposes.

Words To Remember

- *Redemption*: being freed from the guilt and slavery, or bondage, of sin and made willing and able to live for God.
- *Covenant*: the partnership God establishes with His people to carry out His kind, gracious purposes.

Key Idea from Lesson 1

1. God’s Word, the Bible, is one book recording one story of God’s mighty acts as well as the explanation of those mighty acts.