ROUTE 66

TRAVEL THROUGH THE BIBLE
UNIT ONE: HOW IT ALL BEGAN .............................................5
Where Did the Bible come from? .....................7
Genesis: In the Beginning ..........................15
Genesis: How It Fell Apart ..........................19
Genesis: Abraham ......................................23
Genesis: Who’s who? ................................27
UNIT TWO: DELIVERANCE .............................................31
Exodus: Getting out of Egypt .......................33
Exodus: Getting Organized in the Desert .......41
Leviticus: How are we to worship God? ........45
Numbers: Manna again? ..............................51
Deuteronomy: It’s Time for a Review ............55
UNIT THREE: THE PROMISED LAND .........................57
Joshua: Go Get ‘Em! .................................59
Judges: Going in Cycles ..............................65
Ruth: The God with a Plan ........................71
UNIT FOUR: THE UNITED KINGDOM .........................75
1 Samuel: The Boy Who Learned to Listen ....77
1 Samuel: The King Who Never Learned ......81
1–2 Samuel; 1 Chron.: The King God Loved ...85
1 Kings; 2 Chron.: The King Who Had It All ...91
UNIT FIVE: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM .........................93
1–2 Kings; 2 Chron.: Kings and Kingdoms .....95
1–2 Kings: God’s Messengers ......................99
2 Kings; 2 Chron.: Hardest Lesson Learned 103
2 Kings: A Few Good Guys .......................107
UNIT SIX: THE REMNANT KINGDOM .....................111
Ezra: Going Home ..................................113
Nehemiah: Rebuilding God’s People ............117
Esther: Saved by the Queen! ....................121
UNIT SEVEN: POETRY ...........................................125
Job: When Things Go Wrong ....................127
Psalms: Sing It! ..................................131
Proverbs: A Bit of Wisdom .......................137
Ecclesiastes: What’s Life All About? ..........141
Song of Solomon: A Love Song ................145
UNIT EIGHT: MAJOR PROPHETS .........................147
Isaiah: He’s Coming ................................149
Jeremiah; Lamentations: Stand Up! ..........153
Ezekiel: God’s Actor ................................157
Daniel: Daring Daniel ..............................161
UNIT NINE: MINOR PROPHETS ..........................165
Hosea: The God Who Is Always Faithful ......167
Joel: God’s Awesome Prophet ..................171
Amos: Prepare to Meet Your God ..............175
Jonah: The Biggest Fish Story ..................179
Obadiah; Nahum: Payday for the Nations ...183
Micah: God Is Not Asleep .......................187
Habakkuk: That’s Not Fair .......................193
Zephaniah: The Day of the Lord Is Near! ...197
Haggai; Zechariah: Never Give Up! ..........201
Malachi: Keeping Promises .....................207
UNIT TEN: THE STORY OF JESUS .........................209
Gospels: Great News .............................211
Gospels: The Messiah Has Come ...............217
Gospels: Jesus’ Ministry of Teaching ..........223
Gospels: Jesus’ Ministry of Miracles ..........229
Gospels: Jesus Dies, But .........................233
UNIT ELEVEN: BUILDING ON CHRIST’S FOUNDATION ..237
Acts: The Birth of the Church ..................239
Acts: The Church Grows and Grows ..........245
Acts: Christian-Hater to Christian-Maker ...251
UNIT TWELVE: PAUL’S LETTERS .........................255
Romans: Hooray for the Gospel! ...............257
1 Corinthians: One Body .........................263
2 Corinthians: Joy in Ministry .................267
Galatians: Get It Right ...........................271
Ephesians: What a Church! .....................275
Philippians: Rejoice ................................281
Colossians: Get It Straight .......................285
1–2 Thessalonians: Way to Go! .................291
1–2 Timothy: Take the Lead .....................295
Titus: Stand For the Truth .......................301
Philemon: The Runaway .........................307
UNIT THIRTEEN: THE CHURCH GROWS UP ............311
Hebrews: The Best ...............................313
James: Get a Grip ................................319
1 Peter: Who are you? ............................323
2 Peter: It’s the Truth ..............................329
1–3 John: Walking in the Light .................333
Jude: Watch Out! ................................339
Revelation: A New Day ...........................343
Let’s Review .....................................349
UNIT ONE:

HOW IT ALL BEGAN
LESSON 1
WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM?

WHAT A BOOK!

1. The word Bible means ______ book _______. The Bible is the most important book ever written. It has been translated into more languages, published by more companies in more versions and editions, and sold more copies than any other book in the world.

   The Bible is also called ______ Scripture _______, which means ______ writings _______. Because this book contains the words that ___God___ spoke and commanded men to write down, it is called ______ God’s Word _______.

2. According to 2 Timothy 3:16–17, all Scripture is ______ inspired _______, which means “______ God-breathed ________.” That is, the words in the Bible are from God. What was written down was precisely what God wanted to say.

   According to 2 Peter 1:16–21, God inspired men through the ___ Holy Spirit ____. He spoke to them. Then they wrote His words to other people. Using a Bible dictionary, write the definition of inspiration in the following box:

   Define inspiration: God empowered men through the Holy Spirit to speak and write His truth.

3. God used many people to write the Bible—likely several dozen different individuals. Many of them are unknown. For example, no one knows for sure who wrote the books of ___Job___ or ___Hebrews_____, which were written around __1400___ B.C. and A.D. __100___, respectively. Some books like Joshua and the prophets would appear to be named after the authors, but we have no specific biblical evidence. Still, the Bible is one unit. All of the books fit together to tell one story. This harmony of writings by different authors who lived many years apart shows that one mind guided them.
Read Exodus 34:27 and 1 Corinthians 2:10–13 to learn how God guided the human authors of the Bible.

- **God told Moses what to write.**
- **God’s Spirit taught people.**

God told some writers exactly what to write down. Moses, for example, wrote down the laws as God dictated them (Exo. 34:27–28). Other writers wrote about what they saw and heard. For example, Matthew, a disciple of Jesus, wrote about the things he saw Jesus do and what he heard Him say. Some writers, such as Luke, investigated and wrote down what others told them (Luke 1:1–4). Some authors copied the history from other books (2 Sam. 1:17–27). The Holy Spirit guided all of these men and their methods so that whatever they wrote was true.

People communicate in two basic ways.

- **words**
- **actions**

God has spoken to humankind in these two ways.

As you read John 1:1, 14; 14:9–11, and Hebrews 1:1–2, discover how God has spoken to us in these ways. Then fill in the following:

- God’s **words** are summarized in the **Bible**.
- God’s **actions** are summarized in ________ **Jesus Christ** ________.

**HOW IT ALL ADDS UP**

As you read the following information, fill in the appropriate Bible division charts. Use the contents page in your Bible to fill in the name of each book.
OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS IN ENGLISH BIBLES

- Law—Moses wrote these first five books of the Bible. They describe the beginning of time, the beginning of the world, and the beginning of God’s nation, Israel.

- History—The books Joshua through Esther cover 1,000 years of Israel’s history, recording Israel’s conquest of the land that God promised and how the nation rose and fell under its judges, kings, and prophets.

- Poetry—This section is also called Wisdom Literature because wise men wrote their advice in these books. They include poems, songs, story-poems and wise sayings, and teachings. Except for Job, each of these books was written in the days of David and Solomon.

- Major prophets—Because these books are longer than the other prophets’ writings, they are called major. The four authors, all prophets, lived during the time of Israel’s kings. Lamentations is also a book of poetry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Define prophet: God’s spokesman; one who speaks to man for God</th>
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<tr>
<td>Define prophecy: words spoken by God through men (may include predictions of future events)</td>
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- Minor prophets—These twelve prophets who wrote shorter books also lived during the time of Israel’s kings.
OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS AND DIVISIONS

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<th>Law</th>
<th>History</th>
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**NEW TESTAMENT DIVISIONS**

- **Gospels**—These four books record the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

  Define *gospel*: **Good news!**

- **History**—Acts tells the story of how the church began. The four Gospels are sometimes placed in this category too.

- **Paul’s letters**—The apostle Paul wrote to churches and friends to teach them God’s will. Some Bibles use the word *epistle*, which simply means “letter.”

- **General letters**—Peter and other church leaders also wrote to churches and friends to explain God’s will. People who believe Paul wrote Hebrews include it with his letters. Because no one knows for sure who wrote it, we have placed it here.

- **Prophecy**—Revelation tells about the past as well as the present and the future. It reveals secret truths. Sometimes it is called the Apocalypse, which means revealed truth or revelation.
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12
THINK ABOUT IT

What are some reasons you send messages to people?  **Answers will vary.**

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Why did God give us His message in the Bible?  **Answers will vary.**

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Answers will vary.