

# THE BIBLE

## ICE BREAKER

Bible trivia, how much do you know about the Bible? Explain that many of the questions are to learn and not to test their knowledge. (Leader: would be a good idea to have a bag of wrapped lollies to each person who has a right answer. Then share the rest afterwards)

- Q How many books are in the Bible? *(66 books)*
- Q How many books are in the Old Testament? *(39)*
- Q How many books are in the New Testament? *(27)*
- Q What does “testament” mean? *(It means ‘covenant’ or ‘contract’)*
- Q Who wrote the Bible? *(The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by over 40 different authors from many different backgrounds. Despite these differences in occupation and the span of years it took to write it, the Bible is a clear and unified book.)*
- Q Which single author contributed the most books to the Old Testament? *(Moses. He wrote the first five books of the Bible, referred to as the Pentateuch; the foundation of the Bible)*
- Q Which single author contributed the most books to the New Testament? *(The Apostle Paul. He wrote 14 – over half – of the books in the New Testament)*
- Q When was the Bible written? *(It was written over a period of some 1,500 years, from around 1450 B.C. – the time of Moses – to about 100 A.D.)*
- Q What does “canon” mean? *(Canon is derived from the Greek word “Kanon”, signifying a measuring rod. So to have the Bible “canonised” meant that it had been measured by the standard or test of divine inspiration and authority. It became the collection of books or writings accepted by the apostles and leadership of the early Christian church as a basis for Christian belief. It is the standard by which all Christians throughout the ages live and worship.)*
- Q When was the Bible canonised? *(The entire New Testament as we know it today, was canonised before the year 375 A.D. The Old Testament had previously been canonised long before the death of Jesus)*
- Q When was the first translation of the Bible made into English? *(1382 A.D. by John Wycliffe)*
- Q When was the Bible printed? *(The Bible was first printed in 1454 A.D. by Johannes Gutenberg who invented the “type mould” for the printing press. It was the first book ever printed.)*
- Q What is the longest book in the Bible? *(The Book of Psalms)*
- Q What is the shortest book in the Bible? *(The Book of 2 John)*
- Q What is the longest chapter in the Bible? *(Psalm 119)*
- Q What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? *(Psalm 117)*
- Q What is the shortest verse in the Bible? *(John 11:35)*
- Q What is the middle verse of the Bible? *(Look up Psalm 118:8)*

Date you did this study \_\_\_\_\_

## Leaders’ Notes

## FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is consistently the best selling book in the world. Amazing!
2. Originally written in three languages – Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, the Bible has been translated into more languages than other book. It has been translated into 2,018 languages in its entirety with many more partial translations (i.e. only particular books translated). In comparison, Shakespeare, considered by many to be the master writer of the English language, has only been translated into 50 languages.
3. It is the most persecuted book. Many tried to destroy it by burning it or banning it, yet it still is the book that is most found in homes, hospitals and other institutions.
4. It is one of the oldest books in the world yet its message is applicable to modern times. It gives answers to the greatest questions that people have asked through the generations, e.g. *“Where did I come from?”*, *“Where am I going?”* *“Why am I here?”* These facts tell us that the Bible is not an ordinary book.
5. The Bible has one central theme – Even though the Bible is made up of 66 books, it has one central theme: GOD’S REDEMPTIVE PLAN FOR MANKIND. This theme is developed from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The Old Testament tells of God’s work of raising up a nation through which Jesus, the Son of God, the Redeemer would come forth. The New Testament tells about the birth, life, ministry, substitutionary death on the cross and resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer.

## Some Questions...

- Q How would you rate the value you place on the Bible? 1 being “No value” and 5 being “Can’t live without it”
- Q How many Bibles do you own? And how many would your family own?

## A True Account

This is a true story told by one of our youth leaders... An Aussie girl went to Indonesia with Wycliffe Bible translators on a missions trip and heard a story from one of the other team members. A team had previously visited a remote village where there was a small group of believers. These people had never had a Bible in their own language and the missionaries were bringing a small number of copies that had been translated into their native language. There was an 80 year old lady who was to receive a copy but when the missionaries were about to hand her a copy, she suddenly said wait, and turned and walked away. Many hours later, after a lengthy walk home, she returned, having bathed and put on clean clothes and walked towards the missionaries. Kneeling down, she held out her hands, tears streaming down her face she said, “I have waited all my life for this moment”, and most gratefully received the Bible.

- Q Why would some people be prepared to risk their life for a Bible? Some even for a page of one.
- Q Why do you think some governments outlaw the selling or ownership of the Bible?
- Q What makes the Word of God so valuable when there are so many around?

## Why the Bible is so important?

1. The main reason God gave us the Bible is to point us towards Jesus as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. READ and discuss the following scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:15

Ephesians 2:8-9

1 Corinthians 1:18

Luke 19:10

John 3:16

John 14:6

2. The Bible teaches us how to live for God, it's not about being religious; it's about changing to become more like Jesus. It's having a personal relationship with the Lord. Check out these verses:

2 Peter 1:3-4

1 Timothy 4:5

Romans 10:17

Psalms 119:9-11, 16

John 17:17

Hebrews 4:12

Ephesians 6:10-18

Ephesians 5:26

Psalms 119:105

Exodus 20:1-17

Q How could you make a start to value the Bible and get more out of it this week?

### Personal Application:

**Will you make a commitment as a LG to read \_\_\_\_\_ (#?) verses of your Bible every day until your next LG meeting and hold each other accountable for how you did? Maybe pick a particular book of the Bible and read it together.**