

LEADER
GUIDE

OVER ONE MILLION TRAINED

TRAINING
for
SERVICE

A BASIC BIBLE OVERVIEW
FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

26-SESSION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE <i>TRAINING FOR SERVICE STUDENT GUIDE</i> FOLLOWS.	

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All Scripture quotations—as well as the spellings of names, places, and scriptural terms—are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

For over a century, *Training for Service* has equipped more than 1 million volunteers with this basic course and certification for Bible teaching. Ideal for those planning to teach Sunday school, serve as church leaders, or facilitate small groups, it is also recommended for anyone who just wants a Bible 101 course.

AS A CERTIFICATION COURSE

The original intent of this course was to give volunteer teachers and church leaders a baseline of biblical knowledge so they could undertake their tasks with confidence. While *Training for Service* also works well as a basic Bible literacy class for Sunday schools or small groups, many still use the course for its original purpose in this way:

1. Offer the course at various times throughout the year to accommodate busy schedules.
2. Decide which volunteers should be certified, systematically enroll them, keep track of those who successfully complete the course, and make plans to certify future volunteers.
3. Make arrangements for individual instruction. A certification class requires that those being certified meet a set standard. For that reason, you will need to give thought as to how you will arrange for content to be made up when a session needs to be missed, and how and when to retest a class member who did not pass the final certification exam. You may also wish to make arrangements for offering this class as a supervised self-study.

CONTENTS OF THIS BOOK

In addition to the entire text of the *Training for Service Student Guide*, you will find these:

1. A suggested **lesson plan** is included for each session. The lesson plans assume that each student has his or her own book and has prepared for class in advance.
2. **Reproducible worksheets** are included for many sessions.
3. Give **exams** after the first 13 and after the final 13 sessions. Then the final exam must be passed with a score of 70 percent or higher in order for the student to be certified.
4. A reproducible **certificate of course completion** is found on page 48 of this book.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

The reproducible worksheets, exams, and completion certificate may be downloaded from www.trainingforservice.com.

The following materials from Standard Publishing, in addition to the resources described on page 7 of the *Student Guide*, can enhance your *Training for Service* experience:

1. *Discovering God's Story* (ISBN 978-0-7847-2398-2) is a presentation of 100 key events, succinctly summarized and beautifully illustrated. *Discovering God's Story* reveals how individual Bible stories fit together as 1 continuous saga.
2. The Standard Reference Library provides a thorough yet concise look at the entire Bible:
 - Old Testament Volume 1: *The Pentateuch* (ISBN 978-0-7847-1904-6)
 - Old Testament Volume 2: *The History of Israel* (ISBN 978-0-7847-1905-3)
 - Old Testament Volume 3: *Poetry and Prophecy* (ISBN 978-0-7847-1906-0)
 - New Testament Volume 1: *The Life and Ministry of Jesus* (ISBN 978-0-7847-1900-8)
 - New Testament Volume 2: *The New Testament Church* (ISBN 978-0-7847-1901-5)

HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE

ATTENTION

Arrange to have a display of various Bible versions for the students to examine as they arrive. Include at least a Greek New Testament, *King James Version*, *American Standard Version*, *Revised Standard Version*, *Today's English Version*, *New American Standard Bible*, *New International Version*, *New King James Version*, and *New Living Translation*. Other old versions would be interesting, if they are available. Be sure to label each Bible, using its correct title. Place a sheet of paper with these instructions nearby: "Look up a familiar verse or passage such as John 3:16 in each version (except the Greek New Testament, unless you know Greek). Read the passage and compare the wording from version to version. Do different wordings alter the basic message?" Allot 5–7 minutes past the beginning time for this activity.

Introduce the Bible survey course upon which the class is embarking. Explain that the basis for today's lesson will be the following questions: 1) How did we get our Bible? 2) How did it begin? 3) How has it been handed down to us?

DISCOVERY

Form groups of 3. Assign each group the following Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; and Revelation 22:18, 19. Instruct each group to read the verses and find the answer to this question: "What does the Bible say about its authorship and purpose?" Allow 5 minutes for this; then discuss their findings. Emphasize that all Scripture—every bit—is God-breathed.

Assign small groups (or the larger group) to discuss *inspiration* and determine a definition. After the discussion, share this definition: "*Inspiration* is God's revelation communicated to us through writers who used their own minds and words, yet God so directed their lives and thoughts that the words they used in writing were the very words of God." Emphasize that 40 writers wrote the Bible over a period of 1,500 years.

Give a brief lecture of the material "Ancient Manuscripts and Versions."

Let the students share their findings from the "Attention" step.

Allow time for questions.

CLOSING

Summarize today's session.

Lead a time of prayer in which you give thanks to God for inspired revelation that has been preserved through the centuries so we can enjoy the Bible even today.

ASSIGNMENT

Remind the students that the key to the success of this class is for each person to come to class prepared. Encourage them to answer the end-of-chapter questions during the week.

Assign 2 students to prepare 5-minute presentations on the 2 ways we know about God. One will address natural revelation and the other, special revelation.

GOD'S WORD TO US

ATTENTION

Write this statement on the board: “Ultimately the question of the authority of Scriptures is a matter of faith and not of argument” (Martin Lloyd-Jones). Group the class members by 3s and ask them to decide whether they agree or disagree with the statement and why. Give each group a sheet of paper and a marker to record their answers and reasons. Allow 5 or 6 minutes for making these lists and sharing them with the entire class.

DISCOVERY

Begin this section of the lesson by inviting the individuals assigned to present their short reports. Be prepared to mention any material from the *Student Guide* that was omitted.

Then ask the students to turn to Philemon in their Bibles. Explain that the class will do a study using the principles mentioned. Distribute copies of the Lesson 2 Worksheet from page 30 or from www.trainingforservice.com. (To be ready to help students, you should have worked through the process yourself.) Allow 15 minutes for class members to work in small groups to read the book (per question 1) and answer questions 2, 9, and 2 others as assigned. Let the groups report.

Emphasize how important it is to determine the Bible's trustworthiness if we are to apply its principles today. Then discuss the following questions:

1. Why must we regard the Bible as authoritative if we are to gain the most from its study?
2. How does reading the total context help you in your study?
3. How do the principles of study discussed today help you?

CLOSING

Summarize the day's session. Encourage the students to begin to incorporate these Bible study principles into their Bible study this week. Close with prayer.

ASSIGNMENT

Encourage each student to read lesson 3 before the next class session.

Ask for volunteers to read 1 book from each section of the Bible. Each volunteer should read a different book. Suggested books from the Old Testament are Genesis, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, and Micah. Suggested books from the New Testament are Mark, Acts, 1 John, and Revelation. Ask each to come with a brief summary of the content of the book he or she read.

Encourage all class members to begin reading the Old Testament this week.

DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

ATTENTION

As class members arrive, distribute copies of the Lesson 3 Worksheet from page 30 or from www.trainingforservice.com. Allot 5 minutes for this activity. Go over the correct answers. (Questions 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10 refer to the Old Testament; all others refer to the New.)

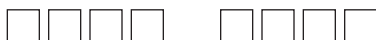
Remind the class that today's lesson is an overview of the composition of the Bible.

DISCOVERY

Draw an open Bible on the board. Point out that this book, the Bible, is composed of 66 books grouped into 2 major divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each division is further subdivided into 4 parts.

Outline the 4 divisions of the Old Testament on the left side of the Bible drawing. Include the number of books in each. Ask the person who read a book from each section to give a 1- or 2-sentence summary of the types of literature included in that section. Add interesting facts from the *Student Guide* material. When you have completed the overview, have class members recite together the names of the divisions and numbers of books. Repeat the same procedure for the New Testament divisions.

Now play a game to make sure the students have the information firmly in mind. Draw 8 squares on the board as shown below. Explain that these represent the 4 groups of books in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Ask students to name the groups in unison as you point to each square.



Divide the class into 2 teams. You will name a player whose turn it is to play. Point to a square and ask either “What kind?” or “How many?” When you ask “What kind?” the player is to name the division of the Bible. When you ask “How many?” the player gives the number of books in the group. A correct answer must be given within 10 seconds and will count as 1 point for the team. Make sure each player gets at least 1 turn.

Then continue by having the student give a fact about the division selected. Any correct information is acceptable except for “what kind” and “how many.” A fact once used cannot be repeated. Follow the same time and scoring guidelines as before. Continue playing until you have no more time or until no more information can be supplied about any division.

CLOSING

Summarize the lesson for today. Review the divisions of the Bible again. Then read Romans 12 as an example of the letters written to guide Christian living. Close in prayer.

ASSIGNMENT

Ask class members to read lesson 4 for next time. Encourage them to begin to memorize the names of the books of the Old Testament.

Ask them to read 1 book of the Old Testament during the week. You may want to assign different books so students can assist in the presentation next time.

TRAINING FOR SERVICE EXAM 1

(LESSONS 1–13)

_____ 1. The Bible was written

- A. over a period of about 1,500 years B. by about 40 authors C. by inspiration of God
D. all the above

_____ 2. The original languages of the Bible were

- A. Hebrew and Latin B. Greek and English C. Hebrew and Greek D. Arabic and Latin

_____ 3. Some manuscripts that testify to how accurately the Old Testament was copied are

- A. the Satanic Verses B. the Dead Sea Scrolls C. the Rosetta Stone D. A and C only

_____ 4. The Latin translation that became the official version of the Catholic Church is the

- A. Vulgate B. Textus Receptus C. Peshitta D. Rubicon

_____ 5. Dynamic equivalence translations like the *New Living Translation* try to translate

- A. word for word B. thought for thought C. side by side D. left to right

_____ 6. Knowledge about God received purely by reason and observation is

- A. always wrong B. special revelation C. natural revelation

_____ 7. Which is *not* a division of the Old Testament?

- A. Law B. History C. Gospels D. Poetry E. Prophecy

_____ 8. Which of these are listed in the order they are found in the Old Testament?

- A. Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel B. Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs

_____ 9. Which is *not* a division of the New Testament?

- A. Law B. History C. Gospels D. Letters E. Prophecy

_____ 10. The 4 Gospels are

- A. Peter, Paul, James, John B. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John C. Mark, Peter, Paul, Luke

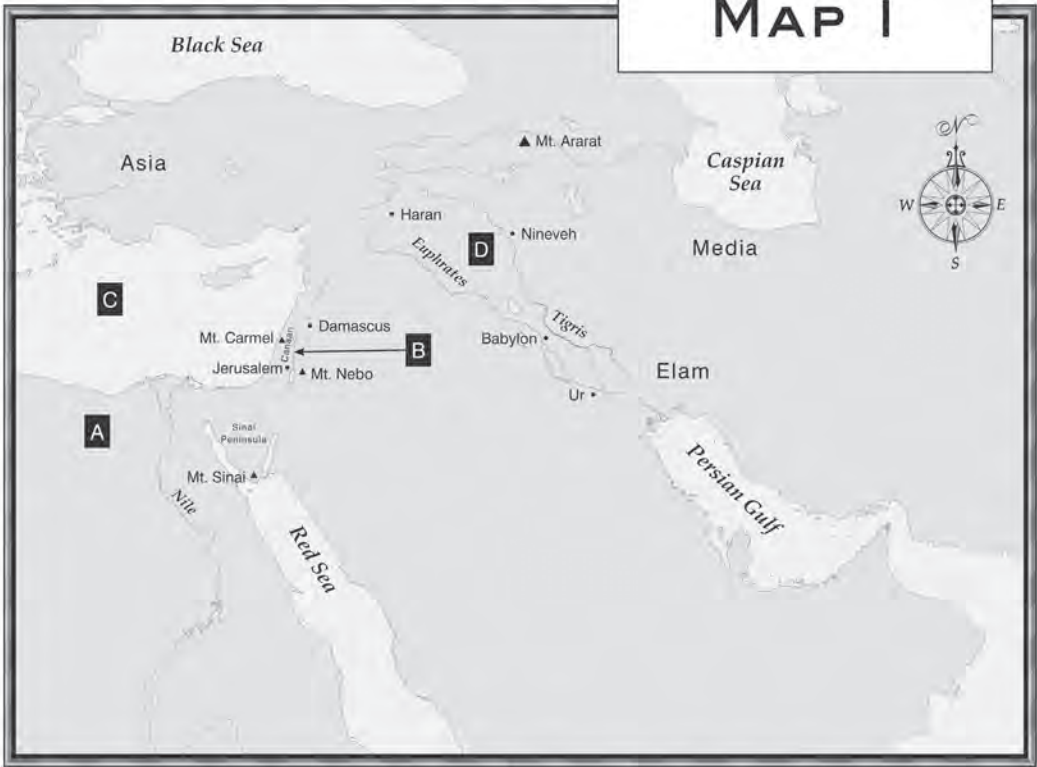
_____ 11. Most of the New Testament letters were written by

- A. Jesus B. Moses C. Peter D. Paul E. John

_____ 12. What is a dispensation?

- A. a plan by which God gives out His revelation B. a form of biblical poetry
C. an act of divine condemnation D. none of the above

MAP 1



MAP 2



Certificate of Completion

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE 26-SESSION BIBLE SURVEY COURSE
AND EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS OF
TRAINING for SERVICE

COURSE FACILITATOR

DATE



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For over 100 years *Training for Service* has equipped more than 1 million volunteers with this basic course and certification for Bible teaching. Ideal for those planning to teach Sunday school or facilitate small groups, it is also recommended for anyone who just wants a Bible 101 course. It can be completed with a group or as a self-study. The *Training for Service Leader Guide* includes:

- Full text of the Student Guide
- Complete step-by-step lesson plans with reproducible worksheets and exams
- Reproducible course-completion certificate
- Access to additional resources at www.trainingforservice.com

Training for Service is divided into 5 units that provide a better understanding of the Bible and its message:



THE BIBLE

its origins, translations, divisions, and contents



OLD TESTAMENT GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

the people, places, and events found in the first 39 books of the Bible



OLD TESTAMENT INSTITUTIONS

the elements of Jewish worship designed to point to the coming fulfillment of God's plan in Jesus



THE CHRIST

the account of the ultimate revelation: God in the flesh



THE CHURCH

the mission given to the first followers of Jesus, which we are called to continue until our Savior returns

Christian educators have continued to keep *Training for Service* relevant for new generations of Bible students. This latest revision is updated with the best available Bible information and educational methodology and remains true to the heritage of this ever-popular study.

HERBERT MONINGER wrote the original *Training for Service* in 1907, summarizing the content of his popular teacher-training seminars.

CECIL JAMES (C. J.) SHARP, minister and high school principal, revised Moninger's work in 1934.

ORRIN ROOT, a former editor at Standard Publishing, revised the book in the 1960s, reducing the original 40-lesson format to the current 26 sessions.

ELEANOR DANIEL, seminary professor and Christian education expert, revised the book in the 1980s.

JIM EICHENBERGER, a former schoolteacher and principal, and currently a writer and editor at Standard Publishing, authored this revision.

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