



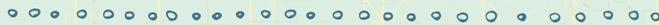
Q. WHAT IS THE BIBLE? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Is it necessary for me to read and study it?

A. The Bible is called God’s Word because God inspired the people who wrote it to record his messages, commands, and stories for people to read and learn from. The Bible tells the centuries-old story of God’s interaction with his people. It also answers questions about how to live, how to treat others, how to know God, and how to live for him.

The Bible has survived for thousands of years in spite of efforts to destroy it. God has always protected it so that his message has never been lost.

It is important to read and study the Bible because it teaches us about God and ourselves. Most people find they can read and study it every day and still keep learning new things. The effort put into studying the Bible pays off as we gain a better understanding of God and ourselves and a closer relationship with him.



The word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. HEBREWS 4:12



Q. ARE THE BIBLE AND THE WORD OF GOD THE SAME THING?

Are there two different books to study to know what God wants me to know?

A. The Bible and the Word of God are the same thing. The word *Bible* comes from the ancient Greek word *biblia*, which means “book.” *Biblia* eventually became *Bible* in the English language. The word *holy* was added to the title because the Bible is an important book of faith.

The Bible is often referred to by other terms as well. Some people refer to it as *Scripture*—from the Latin word for “writings.” And the Bible is also called the Word of God (“the Word” for short) because Christians believe that it contains God’s message to humankind, written down for all people to read.

Interestingly enough, the book of John also uses the term *Word* to refer to Jesus—and in many English versions it also says that when Jesus became human, the Word “became flesh.” This is a poetic way of saying that Jesus was God’s ultimate communication with the world.



The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. PSALM 19:8