

Compare this verse (2 Timothy 3:16) as it is translated in three different versions of the Bible:

'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.' (Authorised King James)

'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults and giving instruction for right living.' (Good News Bible)

'Everything in the scripture is God's word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.' (Contemporary English Version)

Exodus 20 :13

Do not commit murder.

Matthew 5: 21 & 22

"You have heard that people were told in the past: 'Do not commit murder; anyone who does will be brought to trial.' But now I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial, whoever calls his brother 'You good-for-nothing!' will be brought before the Council, and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell."

How is Jesus's teaching different to the law of Moses?

'Y Ffordd' (The Way): © 2016 The Union of Welsh Independents, Tŷ John Penri, 5 Axis Court, Parc Busnes Glanyrafon, Bro Abertawe, Abertawe SA7 0AJ

Reading and understanding the Bible

Year 1, Part 1



(The Way)

How to use the material

It is suggested that the discussions based on the contents of the first film be divided into 4 sessions.

Session A: Watch the entire film and discuss the *General Questions*. The questions for each session are on pages 2 and 3.

Session B: Watch short film 1, and discuss the questions on *Understanding and Interpreting the Bible*.

Session C: Watch short film 2, and discuss the questions on *The Bible and Moral Guidelines*.

Session D: Watch short film 3, and discuss the questions on *The Bible's Influence*.

Note: The short films are accessible from the main menu of the DVD. Please use the four cursor 'arrows' to select options. For those using a downloaded version, the short films are available from our website, www.annibynwyr.cymru/videos

Pages 3 and 4 of this leaflet contain additional discussion topics. Before concluding each session, it would be useful for the group to discuss the question:

What can we do, as a church, following this discussion?

Questions for discussion

Session A: General Questions

- 1) Which picture/image best describes the Bible for you?
- 2) Why do so many people disregard the Bible today?
- 3) If the Bible is a 'closed book', what is responsible for this and how can we change it?
- 4) Do any parts of the Bible cause you concern or confusion?

Session B: Understanding and Interpreting the Bible

- 1) Have modern translations of the Bible made the Bible's message easier to understand, and what value do older versions, such as the King James Version, have now?
- 2) What helps you understand what the Bible has to say about our situation today?
- 3) Can you think of examples of religious 'jargon' or 'Bible-ese'?
- 4) If you lived in a poor country, facing oppression and famine, how could that affect your reading and understanding of the Bible?

Session C: The Bible and Moral Guidelines

- 1) What determines your moral guidelines, and why?
- 2) If the Bible doesn't speak **specifically** on a contemporary issue, are there ways it can help us hear God's guidance on it?
- 3) As Christians, should we turn primarily to the New Testament, rather than the Old Testament, for moral guidance?
- 4) What are the dangers of confining the Bible to personal morality?

Session D: The Bible's Influence

- 1) The Bible is described as a 'book that transforms lives'. Is this true in your experience?
- 2) Has there been too much emphasis on the Bible as a means of transforming the individual, at the expense of being a means to change society and the world?
- 3) Has your church changed for the better during your time as a member? If so, how? If not, why?
- 4) Can you think of people who, under the Bible's influence, have succeeded in changing society for the better?

What people say about the Bible

'A partner in worship, an aid in prayer, a companion on faith's journey, an instruction for life, a comfort in times of distress.'

*'I'm not concerned about the parts of the Bible that I don't understand, but rather the parts that I **do** understand.'*

'We must hold the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other.'

'The answers to all the problems facing humanity lie within the covers of the Bible.'

'I know that the Bible is inspired because it inspires me.'

'God's word is more like a novel than a cook book.'