

SUMMER

MILESTONES
Equipping
NIGHTS

Join us for new sessions this summer!

Wednesdays @ 6:30–8p

The Loop Campus (Chapel)

DON SWEAT

**May 31 – How to Know and Love the LORD
through His Word**

June 7 – How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth

DWIGHT EDWARDS

June 14 – The Old Testament in 90 Minutes

June 28 – The New Testament in 90 Minutes



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HoustonsFirst.org

**Know and Love the LORD
through His Word**

Why do we need a Personal Quiet Time?

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 This is what the Lord says:

“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches,

24 but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the **understanding to know me**, that I am the Lord, who exercises **kindness, justice** and **righteousness** on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord. (NIV)

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he **understands and knows me**, that I am the LORD who practices **steadfast love, justice** and **righteousness** in the earth. For in these things I delight,” declares the LORD. (ESV)

Question: What should be the aim/goal/purpose of our study of Scripture?

Our need for daily time with God

- **Jeremiah 9:24** - but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding **to know me, that I am the Lord**, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,”
- **Psalm 143:8** - Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. **Show me the way I should go**, for to you I entrust my life.
- **Psalm 143:10** - Teach me **to do your will**, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
- **Psalm 119:4** - You have laid down **precepts that are to be fully obeyed**.
- **Psalm 119:9** - How can a young person stay on the **path of purity**?
- **Psalm 119:11** - I have **hidden your word** in my heart that I might not sin against you. By **living according to your word**.
- **Matthew 4:4** - Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but **on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’”

Bible Navigation

- **Google maps / Google God**



Bible Navigation

- The better we can navigate the Bible, and it's meaning, the more we allow God to navigate our lives.
- The Bible is a road map for life. As with any map, the more you review the map, the better we know the map.
- It's the same way with the Bible. The more we are in the Word - the more the Word can be in us.
- The more the Word is in us - the better we know God's map and the path that God has for our life.
- The more we know God – the more we love God and the more we love God the more we will reflect God's love to us by our love for others.

Versions of the Bible

Comparison of translations - meaning is identical

Mark 16:16

NIV	"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved"
KJV	"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"
NAS	"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved"

Different words and sentences but the meaning is identical.

Choose a version that you prefer and are comfortable with using.

Bible apps are a great tool - they actually allow you to switch between versions

YouVersion

NIV Study Bible

Bible Tools for phone & tablets

Free downloads

Study Bibles – typically have a cost

Audio features

Versions – NIV, KJV, etc.



Dwight Edwards

The Old Testament in 90 minutes

June 14, 2023

The New Testament in 90 minutes

June 28, 2023

Personal Quiet Time

What is a personal quiet time and why do we need to have one?

- A specific time each day away from other people, responsibilities and distractions for the purpose of knowing God and worshiping Him.**

Talking with God / Focus on God

- **Airplane Mode – blocks out distractions**
- **Screen Time**
- **Face Time**



Appointment with God

- **Consistent time of day – morning, noon, evening**
- **Length of time – start with 10-15 minutes**
- **Set the place**
- **Distractions – TV, phone, interruptions**

Appointment with God

- **Want / Willingness (Desire) - necessity**
- **Withdraw – alone – one on one**
- **Wait – slow down - patience**
- **Watch – God to reveal**
- **Write - journal**

10 Minutes with God (example)

- **Pray for guidance (Psalm 143:8)** (1 minute)
- **Three R Method (Read, Reflect, Respond)** (7 minutes)
- **Pray** (2 minutes)
 - Adoration (I Chronicles 29:11)
 - Confession (I John 1:9)
 - Thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:20)
 - Supplication (Matthew 7:7)

Psalm 143:8

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

2 Minutes of prayer – seems like long time

- **Pray** **(2 minutes)**
 - **Adoration (I Chronicles 29:11)**
 - **Confession (I John 1:9)**
 - **Thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:20)**
 - **Supplication (Matthew 7:7)**

I Chronicles 29:11

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Ephesians 5:20

always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ.




I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 7:7

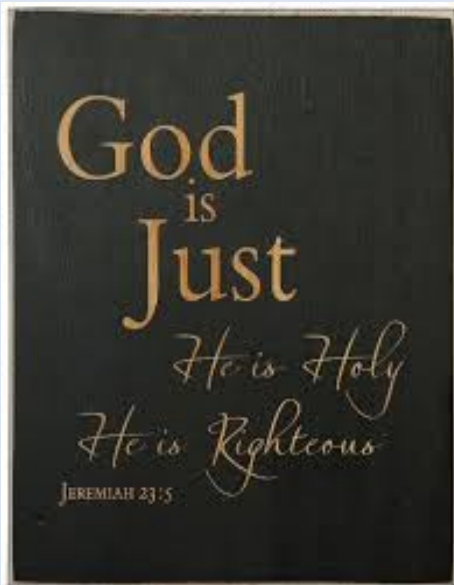
Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Being More Like Jesus

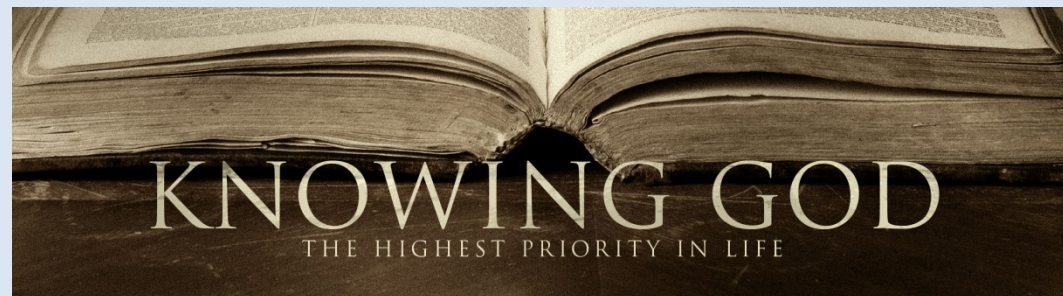
- Know God...  ...Love God
- Love God...  ...Follow God
- Follow God...  ...Become like Him

Becoming more like Jesus, is God's goal for every Christian.

Truths about God...(Knowing Him)



Jeremiah 9:24 - but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight," declares the LORD.



Talking with God / Focus on God

- **Matthew 14:22-23** Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,
- **Mark 1:35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Demonstration of Method

The three “R”s:

- **Read**
- **Reflect**
- **Respond**

Personal Quiet Time

Let's Practice

- **Opportunity to practice here before you study the Bible on your own**
- **Read/reflect/respond on this passage: (Daniel 1: 8-15)**

Remember

- Read (Content)
- Reflect (Truths)
- Respond (Apply)

Daniel 1:8-15

- **⁸ But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. ⁹ Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. ¹⁰ But he responded, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded.”**
- **¹¹ Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ¹² “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. ¹³ “At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.” ¹⁴ The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion and tested them for ten days.**
- **¹⁵ At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king**

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The three “R”s Method

- **Write it down!**



Mark 2:1-12

- **Read the passage slowly**
- **Read passage aloud**
- **Take Notes (words or phrases that are important)**
 - **Look for repeated words, words that describe God, commands and promises**

Mark 2:1-12



- 1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.
- 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.
- 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man carried by four of them.
- 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.
- 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”
- 6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,
- 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
- 8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?”
- 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?
- 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man,
- 11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”
- 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

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Step 2 - Reflect

- **Ask God to help you answer the following:**
 - **What does the passage teach about God's character and His values?**
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Step 3 - Respond

Respond to what the passage says:

- **Take action**
- **Speak to God**
- **Write your response:**
 - write a prayer for God's help to respond
 - write how you plan to apply the passage

Step 1 - Read

- **Pray before you read**
- **Read the passage slowly**
- **Read the passage aloud**
- **Take note of details**
 - **repeated words**
 - **promises, commands**
 - **words that describe God**

John 11:1-16

- Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”
- ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”
- ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”
- ⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”
- ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light.¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”
- ¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”
- ¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.
- ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”
- ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

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I Kings 19:1-21

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- **Read passage aloud**
- **Take Notes (words or phrases that are important)**
 - **Look for repeated words, words that describe God, commands and promises**

1 Kings 19:1-21

- 19 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Eliiah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."
- 3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there. 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.
- All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.
- 7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said. "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 There he went into a cave and spent the night.
- And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- 10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."
- 11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."
- Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.
- Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- 14 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."
- 15 The Lord said to him. "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."
- 19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."
- "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"
- 21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

Step 2 - Reflect

- **Ask God to help you answer the following:**
 - **What does the passage teach about God's character and His values?**
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Step 3 - Respond

Respond to what the passage says:

- **Take action**
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- **Write your response:**
 - write a prayer for God's help to respond
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Question and Answer

- **How did this method work for you?**
- **How did the Lord use this time to speak to you?**
- **What are some ideas for scheduling a time alone with God each day?**

Seek the Lord's face in prayer.

- Matthew 6:6-8 “When you pray, go to your room and close the door. **Pray privately to your Father who is with you.** Your Father sees what you do in private. He will reward you. “When you pray, don’t ramble like heathens who think they’ll be heard if they talk a lot. Don’t be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”
- 1 Chronicles 16:11 “**Look to the Lord** and his strength; **seek his face always.**”
- Romans 8:26-27 “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words; and He who **searches the hearts** knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Personal Quiet Time

- **Matthew 6:33** But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- **Psalm 46:10** He says, “**Be still**, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
- **James 4:8** **Come near to God and he will come near to you**. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- **Psalm 1:2** but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and **who meditates on his law day and night**.
- **Matthew 6:6** But **when you pray**, go into your room, close the door and **pray to your Father**, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- **Matthew 14:22-23** Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, **he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray**. Later that night, **he was there alone**,
- **Mark 1:35** Very **early in the morning**, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place**, where **he prayed**.
- **Psalm 62:1** Truly **my soul finds rest in God**; my salvation comes from him.

We must remove ourselves from the world.

- Romans 12:1-2 “I beg you therefore, my brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God by a logical service. **Do not be conformed to this present world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the **temptation he will also provide the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.”

Be still and set your mind on God.

- Psalm 46:10 “**Cease striving and know that I am God**; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
- Lamentations 3:25-28 “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the **one who seeks him**; it is good to **wait quietly** for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him **sit alone in silence**, for the Lord has laid it on him.”
- Philippians 4:7-9 “Then God’s peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, **keep your thoughts on whatever is right or deserves praise: things that are true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, or commendable.** Practice what you’ve learned and received from me, what you heard and saw me do. Then the God who gives this peace will be with you.”

Jesus needed quiet time with the Lord.

Are you stronger than Jesus?

- Luke 5:15-16 “Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But **Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**”
- Mark 1:35-37 “Before daybreak the next morning, **Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.** Later Simon and the others went out to find him. When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.”
- Luke 22:39-45 “And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And **he was withdrawn from them** about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow.”

God is calling you daily.

- Genesis 3:8-9 “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And **the LORD God called unto Adam**, and said unto him, Where art thou?”
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 “**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”
- Romans 5:10 “For if while we were enemies **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**”

Be silent and listen, meditate

- Psalm 1:1-4 “Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers. Rather, he delights in the teachings of the Lord and **reflects on his teachings day and night**. He is like a tree planted beside streams— a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He succeeds in everything he does. Wicked people are not like that. Instead, they are like husks that the wind blows away.”
- Joshua 1:8-9 “Always **remember what is written** in that book of law. Speak about that book **and study it day and night**. Then you can be sure to obey what is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything you do. Remember, I commanded you to be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
- Proverbs 5:1-2 “My son, **pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight**, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.”
- 2 Timothy 3:16 “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**”

Sing praise

- Psalm 100:2-4 “Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! **Give thanks to him; bless his name!**”
- Psalm 68:4-6 “**Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,** extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the LORD. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.”

Imitate Christ

- 1 Corinthians 11:1 “**Follow my example,** as I follow the **example of Christ.**”
- Ephesians 5:1 “**Imitate God,** therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.”

The Old Testament

Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Israel's History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

Wisdom & Poetry

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs

Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

Minor Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

The New Testament

History

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts

Epistles

- Romans
- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- 1 & 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon
- Hebrews
- James
- 1 & 2 Peter
- 1, 2 & 3 John
- Jude

Prophecy

- Revelation

The New Testament

- **5 Books of History - 4 Gospels of Jesus Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)**
- **Historical narrative of the birth, life, teachings, death and resurrection of the long-awaited Redeemer, the man Jesus of Nazareth who is the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
- **1 Acts of the Apostles: History of the Church in the 1st century following Jesus ascension into heaven; beginning in Jerusalem, spread throughout Asia Minor, especially through the main characters Peter and Paul**
- **21 Epistles (letters from the apostles to the churches or individuals)**
- **Romans to Jude**
- **Further explain the teachings of Jesus Christ, the implications of His life death, resurrection and ascension, and the importance of His present ministry from heaven and through His people.**
- **1 Prophecy (Revelation); the full title is "Revelation of Jesus Christ" as God and coming King, which is future to us.**