

How Was the Bible Developed?

Lesson 22

Luke 2:41-47

Memory Verse

All Scripture is given from God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live right. 2 Timothy 3:16

Introduction

Explain that in the next few weeks we will be talking about the Bible and how we can use it to help us.

Scripture

Luke 2:41-47

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Discussion

Ask: Did Jesus know the Scriptures?

One time when Jesus was at church, He talked to the teachers about God. They talked and talked. His parents finally left to go home, but Jesus did not know it! They traveled in a big group with many relatives. Believe it or not, Mary and Joseph did not know He was not with them. When they discovered it, they hurried back and found Jesus talking with the teachers. The teachers were amazed at everything Jesus knew and the questions He asked.

The Bible is Communicated Orally

People were living on the earth for hundreds of years before any part of the Bible was written. God spoke to people through prophets and preachers. These people shared God's message to others through stories because writing had not been invented yet.

Later in 1200 B.C., the alphabet was invented. However, not many people knew how to read or write so they continued to tell and retell stories of what God had done.

You can imagine that these leaves wore out quickly. So, the scribes had to carefully make new copies by hand because they did not have typewriters or computers back then.

The Scriptures Are Written Manually

Some people began to go to school and learn how to read and write. When they put God's words into print they were called "scribes" or secretaries. Paper was not invented at that time, so they wrote on plant leaves or animal skins. They rolled the leaves up into scrolls when not in use. When the writers wrote down what God said, they were guided by God. God gave them the message to write on the scroll. That's why the Bible is called God's Word.

Are you ready to learn something interesting—the Bible was not originally written in English!

Discussion

Ask: What are some other languages you can name?

The Old Testament is written in a language called Hebrew. There are also a few books written in another language called Aramaic because the people were forced to live in another place.

Then, the Greeks conquered the land and the people learned to speak Greek. The New Testament is written in the Greek language. In fact, that is what Jesus spoke.

Soon, someone invented our modern day book. That was great because people didn't have to carry lots of scrolls around anymore. Because it took so long to write down every word of the Bible, the Bibles were expensive. In fact, some people chained them up so no one would steal them!

Finally someone invented the printing press. It is kind of like a copy machine. It could make lots of copies and lots of Bibles!

Ask: How many books are in the Bible?

The Bible has 66 books in it. There are different kinds of books, like a library has different kinds of books on its shelves. There are books about law, history, poetry, prophets, Jesus, letters to churches, and future events. The "Old" Testament are books that were written before Jesus came. The "New" Testament is books that were written after Jesus came.

Ask: How did 66 books get into the Bible?

A group of special people came together a long, long time ago. They looked through all the writing to see which ones were from God and which ones were not.

Finally they decided that these 66 books were from God. That's how we have the Bible today.

Many years later, a cool thing happened. A boy was playing in some caves in the country where Jesus lived (Israel). He threw a rock into a cave and heard it hit something. He went into the cave and discovered a jar. He thought it was treasure! It was a treasure!

Application

Ask: When he took them into town, guess what they discovered?

They were old, old Bible scrolls!

Ask: Do you know what that did?

It helped people see that the Bible they had today was just like the one people had around Jesus' time. God made sure that we had the whole Bible. Nothing was left out!

The Bible can also help us know what God wants and how He wants us to live. We can see that God wants to have a relationship with us, one that is intimate and real. That is why God sent Jesus to the world.

Application

Ask: Do you know what that did?

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Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to be in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved, we will have a new life.