

## To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

## Lesson 25 – A Divine-Human Book (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question. We often enjoy reading books from certain authors due to the words they choose or their ability to draw us into their stories. God is the supreme author.

### Study Notes:

#### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*Verse 16* – Who is the source (author) of the Bible? God  
Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

The divine origin of Scripture is essential to its authority. There is something special about the Bible that distinguishes it from all other books. That something is divine inspiration. These are not just books written by men, they are books written by God through men.

*Verse 17* – What is the purpose of Scripture? To equip Christians for a holy life.

#### **2 Peter 1:20-21**

*Verse 20* – Why do you think it is important to know that Scripture did not come from people's own interpretations? Human interpretation is subject to error – the Word of God is not.

This can be a difficult area – if human interpretation is subject to error, how can we know that our interpretation is correct? First, we must be sure that our knowledge of Scripture is directed by the Holy Spirit and strengthened with prayer. The Holy Spirit has promised to “guide us into all truth” (Juan 16:13), so we must remain close to Him as we study His Word. Second, we must approach Scripture humbly, knowing that our interpretation is always subject to correction. Third, we must compare our interpretations with the interpretations of other Christians and the church throughout history. If we are interpreting a passage in a way no one has interpreted it before, our interpretation is probably not correct.

*Verso 21* – What is Peter emphasizing in this verse? He is emphasizing that God initiated and directed the writing of Scripture

**Luke 1:1-4**

In this passage, Luke shows that the writing of his Gospel was not simply dictated from memory. He compiled sources and ordered them to write “an orderly account.” He also got his information directly from eyewitnesses.

**Jeremiah 36:1-4, 32**

Jeremiah employed a scribe named Baruch to write his book. When King Jehoiakim destroyed the book, he dictated it again, and added “many similar words.”

**Philippians 1:1-8**

Paul wrote for the church he had started and often included a lot of personal observations. His emotional investment is obvious in many of his greetings, such as this.

**2 Peter 3:15-16**

Note that Paul used “the wisdom that God gave him” when he wrote his letters. Another interesting point about this passage is that it shows that Paul’s letters were considered to have the same authority as “other Scripture,” even in his own time.

**\* Special – What are we referring to when we say that the Bible is “inspired?” \***

There are various different theories about the inspiration of Scripture. Some see the biblical writers simply as “dictation machines” that were basically controlled by the Holy Spirit and with no thought of their own. On the other side, some see the biblical writers as the sole source of Scripture and the Bible is no more inspired than any other great book. Probably the best way to understand biblical inspiration is that God uses the experiences, emotions, and intelligence of the biblical writers – under the direction of the Holy Spirit – to ensure that every word in Scripture was written exactly as God intended. God also preserved His Word through the church – again, with the direction of the Holy Spirit – to ensure that the Scripture that we have today is as dependable as those original manuscripts.

Application: Affirm the steps students have taken to improve their reading of the Bible. Encourage students to make time daily to read the Bible. Share with them anything else that has helped you other than what is on this page.

Lesson 25 – A Divine-Human Book

**Rustic Book Writer**

Who is your favorite popular author?

**Divine Inspiration**

During the next few lessons we will study about the Bible. In this lesson, we will study its nature and how it came to be. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and answer the following questions.

*Verse 16* – Who is the source (author) of the Bible?

Scripture is useful for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_,

*Verse 17* – What is the purpose of Scripture?

As you can see, Scripture comes from God, but it is for humanity. It is our rule for faith and life (as we will study in a future lesson). But is it trustworthy? Look at what Peter says. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 and answer the following.

*Verse 20* – Why do you think it is important that Scripture did not come from people’s own interpretation?

*Verso 21* – What does Peter emphasize in this verse?

It is clear that the Bible is divine in origin, but as I said previously, it is for us. Therefore, it must have some relationship to humanity. Now we will look at the “human” side of Scripture.

## Human Application

The divine inspiration of the Bible guarantees its authority. But God worked through human writers to produce Scripture exactly as He intended. That is why the Bible can be called a “divine-human book,” without diminishing its authority. Read all of the following verses and write below how each one shows the “humanity” of the Bible.

*Luke 1:1-4* –

*Jeremiah 36:1-4, 32* –

*Philippians 1:1-8* –

*2 Peter 3:15-16* –

In this lesson, we have studied that the Bible is divine in origin. This gives the Bible the same authority as God. When we read a commandment in His Word, it has come directly from the Lord. When we read a word of encouragement, it is as if Jesus Himself has spoken to us. But remember, the Bible is very relevant to our lives. It is God’s “love letter” to us. How often do you read His letter (except when you are at church)?

- once a day
- once a week
- once a month
- once a year
- never

There are some ideas in the space below that have helped others in their regular Bible reading. Put a check mark next to those you are already doing, and a star next to ones you want to commit to put into practice this week.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a special place to read      | <input type="checkbox"/> a special time to read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a calendar of daily readings | <input type="checkbox"/> a reading companion    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a devotional book            | <input type="checkbox"/> a Bible workbook       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other? _____                 |   |

Scripture to Memorize:

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.  
Isaiah 40:8