

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2026

Class Curriculum - Back to the Bible

Age - Senior Campers

Monday - The Inspired Word

Summary

1. Subject: The Bible is the Inspired Word of God
2. Scripture: John 1:1-14, 2 Timothy 3:16
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Realize that all scripture is inspired by God. This means that it is true, necessary for our knowledge, and immune to bias or error.
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Lesson

Overview: This week's classes will focus on "Back to the Bible". This entails an overview of the Old and New Testaments, as well as the inspiration and inerrancy of scripture. By the end of the week, all campers should be confident that the Bible is the complete and perfect word of God: sufficient for everyone to have an everlasting relationship with God.

Today's lesson will focus on the inspiration of scripture. Inspiration takes many forms, whether the words were spoken by God Himself, dictated by God through a prophet, or written by a man in whom the Holy Spirit was at work. This topic can have a lot of depth, and will lightly touch on God's inspiration of the translation/transmission of the text over the generations. Go into as much detail as is beneficial for the age group of your class.

John 1:1-14

John 1:1-4

While not revealed until verse 14, “The Word” referenced in these verses is Jesus Christ. This passage tells us many important things about Jesus Christ. He is part of the Godhead and has always been present. He was a part of the creation of all things and is the essence of “light”. Scripturally, “light” refers to truth (the illumination of things unseen) and goodness.

John 1:6-8

These verses refer to John the Baptist, not the apostle John who authored this book. He gives us some insight into our relationship with inspiration. We, like John, are not sources of light. We do not determine truth on our own. We are to be witnesses to the light that has already been revealed.

John 1:9-14

These verses continue to reveal rich knowledge of God the Son. Verse 14 reveals that “The Word” is Jesus Christ. One of the key themes in this passage is that Christ is “truth” and “light”; Jesus’s presence on earth is meant to reveal to us the true nature of spiritual reality. Particularly in light of today’s topic, this means that one of Christ’s primary purposes on earth is to reveal God’s knowledge to us. His original name was “Word”, which indicates that Christ is both the will and the mind of God. Everything He did and everything He said was directly inspired by God, as He is God Himself. Considering that He was present in the beginning, and that all things were created through Him, it is reasonable to think that Jesus has been an active part of the inspiration of all of God’s written word, both in the Old and New Testaments.

Reading Comprehension:

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus? (He is the Son of God, He is the embodiment of grace/forgiveness, He is the embodiment of truth, etc.)
- What does this passage tell us about the word of God? (Christ is the Word. His “light” for everyone reveals the path to becoming “children of God”, so the word of God is designed to give us a pathway to Him)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

This passage is foundational to our understanding of inspiration. In the context of this letter, the term “All scripture” refers to the Old Testament; however, this sentiment should also be applied to the New Testament, because in the preceding verses, Paul references his teaching, Christ Jesus, and salvation under the New Covenant. This passage states the fact that God inspired all scriptures and emphasizes the use of the Bible. It is useful for:

- Teaching. To learn about the nature of God, the history of His works, the life of God the Son, and the commandments we have been given.
- Reproof, which means scolding or disapproving. The scriptures are God’s avenue of telling us what NOT to do: what He finds despicable, distasteful, and evil.
- Correction. Guiding our actions and our thoughts away from well-meaning falsehoods. Ideas like Karma may sound wise and fair, but the scriptures “correct” those philosophies and teach us that God does not reward good for good and evil for evil in this life.
- Training in Righteousness. Especially for young people who are still developing and maturing, scripture is meant to be a formative tool in constructing your worldview and habits.

Finally, the passage ends with “that the man of God may be complete.” This is the most revealing aspect of the inspiration of scripture. It is not just a sample of words that come from God; the Bible is designed to be the totality of what we need to please Him. It is all sufficient: the complete guide to this life.

Reading Comprehension:

- Using personal examples, when have you been taught, reprovved, or corrected by God’s scriptures?
- In this passage, the word “inspired” literally means “breathed out”. How does this relate to Christ being “the Word”? What does this tell us about the Trinity and inspiration? (The inspiration of scripture is similar to God’s—and Christ’s—creation in Genesis 1)
- What are some things that scripture does not give us full knowledge of? Are they essential for us to be “complete”? (Examples include the full nature of angels/demons, detailed histories of other nations besides Israel, etc. While these are interesting, they are not “essential” to our salvation)

DISCUSSION

Ask, “**What are some implications of God inspiring scripture?**” If it is “God-breathed,” then it is surely true. It would be harmonious with itself, not contradictory. The nature of God would be consistent from Genesis to Revelation. This is called “inerrancy”, that the Bible has no flaws, and will be the topic of class tomorrow.

Challenge some of these assumptions and ask, “**Is it possible for any of the biblical authors to be wrong?**” Realize a difference between the faults of *people* recorded in the Bible, and falsehoods in the writing itself. Many times, inspired people make mistakes, like King David, who sins multiple times. In this way, many of the writers were “wrong” at points in their lives because they were not perfect people. This is different than claiming that any book, in its writing, has errors. If you believe that God inspired the writing, then you believe it is true. If you believe any part is made-up or incorrect, then it cannot be inspired by God, and the whole book is open to scrutiny. You cannot pick and choose which parts of the Bible you believe.

The Bible was written thousands of years ago. Ask, “**How do you think the passing of time has affected the inspiration of the Bible?**” This is a complex subject. Some people believe that God inspired the events of the Bible and the original authors, but that He was not inspiring people who copied and translated the books over generations. Many historic translations of the Bible indeed have sections that are translated incorrectly or are worded in a way that affirms the bias of the scribe. For that reason, many people believe in God, but they do not trust the Bible.

Let’s use an illustration to better understand God’s hand in translation/transmission. Imagine a person saves their money for several years, so they can buy their dream car. After years of discipline and sacrifice, they finally have enough, and they spend their life savings on an expensive vehicle. Then, once they own it, they park it in the woods and never drive it; they leave it ignored and neglected.

God bought something greater than a car, and He spent something even more valuable. **1 Corinthians 6:20** uses the phrase that we “were bought with a price”. God valued humanity so much that He gave the life of His Son to die for us to have a relationship with Him. There is no greater cost. A man would not abandon his most prized possession, and God would not abandon the record of His sacrifice, purchase, and covenant. It only makes sense that God would have had some role in the initial translation/transmission of scripture, until the point came when there were so many copies in so many languages that anyone could compare/contrast them to find the best reading.