**“INTRODUCTION TO THROUGH THE BIBLE”**

**Section:** INTRODUCTION

**Biblical Basis:** Old Testament

**INTRODUCTION**

The Bible is the best selling book in the world. Translated now into more than a thousand languages and dialects, its copies are distributed by the millions around the globe every year. In hotels, hospitals, homes, as well as military barracks, the Bible is the ever present resident.

The Bible may be the best seller, but that doesn’t mean that people read or even understand it. What is the Bible all about? Is it a book of information about God? Or is it a textbook on moral conduct? Is it a guide to religious meditation or a “to do” list of life’s do’s and don’ts?

As we venture out into our Through the Bible Series, we want to discover not only the message of the Bible, but the God of the Bible as well. During the next several months we will walk through the Old Testament and come face-to-face with the mighty acts of God as well as His promises. Then we will walk through the New Testament and focus on how God’s promises are fulfilled. (Next year!)

**I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

 A. God’s written revelation. (II Tim 3:16-17; II Pet 1:21)

 B. Central theme: HIS STORY

 C The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors over a period of 1600 years.

 D. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was written in the Greek language.

 E. The word “testament” means covenant or agreement.

 F. In the Old Testament we have the Covenant of Law. In the New Testament we have the Covenant of Grace.

**II. HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?**

 A. Two key facts:

 1. The Bible did not fall out of heaven.

 2. The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek not originally in English.

 B. The methods of God’s revelation:

 1. Direct communication / dreams.

 2. Mighty acts in history.

 3. Inspiration through interpretation.

 4. Writers recorded what was passed on.

 C. Determining factors for accepting Biblical books.

 1. The message itself.

 2. The response to the message.

 3. The credibility of the messenger.

 4. The acceptance by Jesus Christ.

**III. HOW DO WE INTERPRET THE BIBLE?**

A. The Bible is authoritative.

 B. Understand Hebrew / Greek thought forms.

 C. Let Scripture interpret itself.

 D. Approach with expectant prayer.

 E. Interpret not on the basis of experience.

 F. View in the context of the Christian community.

 G. Expect to respond in obedient action.