LESSON DEFINITIONS

Clarity: Very clear and comprehensive.

Conviction: Firmly convinced in what one believes.

Credibility: The quality of being trusted and believable.

Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Great Commission: A term used for the last commandment Jesus Christ gave after His resurrection to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Pauline Epistles: Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, (and many believe Hebrews).

Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

Prophet: In Scripture, a person illuminated, inspired or instructed by God to announce future events.

Prophetical books: Isaiah through Malachi.

Publish: To proclaim by mouth, or to send a book into the world.

TEACHER NOTES:

LESSON **FOUR**

God's Purpose For Providing His Word to Every Generation

TEACHER NOTE: Maps are used by many people for various purposes. The primary purpose of a map is to give direction. Maps help us get from point A to point B. Throughout history, maps have been useful tools for explorers seeking to discover unexplored areas of the globe. The Word of God is similar to a map. It gives us direction through life, guides us as we enter new challenges, and it helps us navigate through the will of God for our lives. Everyone should have a copy of God's Word for their lives, but not everyone has one. If they don't have God's "Map," how will they ever discover God's plan for their lives?

DISCUSSION TIME

Consider once again the thing that you treasure or value above everything else. Perhaps it is a baseball card collection, a savings account, or even a vehicle. Whatever that item may be, would you be willing to share or even give away the thing that is of greatest value to you? God values His Word above His very name. What does He want us to do with the Bible?

THINK

We have seen in the previous three lessons that God wanted to reveal Himself to mankind, and He ultimately did so through the written Word of God. Then, we learned that something as valuable as His Word should be handled in a very specific way. We also saw that if that were going to take place consistently, then a very particular group of people should be involved in the process. Now, we are going to look at the next step. Why did God command His people to produce His Word to an entire world?

There can be no debate that God expects every Christian to publish His words to people who have not heard. There are many verses that teach us that truth. Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:44-47, and Acts 1:8 are just a few to which we commonly refer. The part of publishing Scriptures that has been greatly left out in the modern era of the church (which was a part of life to the early Christians) is the copying and passing on of the Scriptures they received.

READ

Habakkuk 2:2

ANSWER

First, we are to publish the Bible in print so others may read it for themselves. What did God tell the prophet Habakkuk to do with the vision He gave him? **WRITE IT**.

It was not enough for Habakkuk to *just tell* the people what God said, he had to put it into print. Writing is a more permanent, accurate, and secure method of seeing that God's Word is carried to the next generation. Habakkuk's vision was written for **CREDIBILITY**.

God told Habakkuk to make the vision **PLAIN**. Without clear understanding, there could be no application. It was written for **CLARITY.**
What would the people do who read Habakkuk's writing? **RUN**.
The vision (Word of God) that God was giving was of such importance that it was to be responded to immediately. It was written for **CONVICTION**.

READ

Romans 10:14-17; 16:25-26

ANSWER

Secondly, we are to publish the Bible in print so that all can obey it. Where does faith in God come from? **BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD** (Romans 10:14, 17).

Being grounded in the Word of God, or spiritual maturity, comes through receiving all the Bible. In Romans 16:25-26, Paul states that knowledge of these areas of Scripture will help others for "the obedience of faith." Can you identify to which section of the Bible each phrase refers?

1. According to my Gospel = **PAULINE EPISTLES**
2. Preaching of Jesus Christ = **GOSPELS**
3. Revelation of the mystery = **REVELATION**
4. Scriptures of the prophets = **PROPHETICAL BOOKS**
5. Commandment of the everlasting God = **PENTATEUCH**
6. Made known to all nations = **GREAT COMMISSION**

Making the Bible known to all nations requires Scripture **translation** (into all languages) for all nations and Scripture **publishing** to all nations.

READ

Colossians 4:16

ANSWER

Thirdly, we are to publish the Word in print so the church can send it. What was the church at Colosse supposed to do with Paul's epistle, or letter, when they had read it? **CAUSE THAT IT BE READ IN THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA .**

THINK

The written Word of God was to be a part of their lives. The Scripture they received was the result of someone being obedient to God's commands to provide it for them. What they received was not to stay with them. They were to copy it and pass it on ("cause that it be read also").

The Word of God cannot reproduce itself. A Bible cannot produce a Bible. That is why God has given the church the responsibility to preserve His Word and reproduce it.

The word of God cannot move itself. It needs a carrier. It may be by plane, by truck, by mail, or by a missionary. Missionaries need the Word of God to get the job done (Romans 10:17).

More than likely, you own a Bible. As a matter of fact, you may have even more than one. What a privilege it is to have a copy of God's Word, but so many people in the world are still waiting to even see their first copy of God's Word. It has been provided, protected, and preserved for us. Now, we must give together and work together to publish God's Word around the world...that all the earth may know!