

## **The Bible- facts and study helps**

### **St Joe Community Church**

1. The Bible was written by approximately 35 different men at different times under different circumstances over a period of about 1,500 years.
2. 39 Books were written before Jesus Christ, grouped into the Old Testament and 27 Books written after Jesus Christ grouped into the New Testament, for a total of 66 Books.
3. The word “Bible” is a transliteration of the Greek word “biblos” which means “book”
4. The Old Testament prepares for and predicts the coming of Jesus Christ; the New Testament announces and explains the coming of Jesus Christ.
5. Bible books are organized according to theme, not chronology
  - a. The Law- Genesis thru Deuteronomy
  - b. The History of Israel- Joshua thru Esther
  - c. The Wisdom Writings- Job thru Song of Songs
  - d. The Prophets- Jeremiah thru Malachi
  - e. The Arrival of Christ- Matthew thru John
  - f. The Church- Acts thru Jude
  - g. The End Times- Revelation
6. The Bible claims to be God’s perfect Word: Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21. God worked through the personalities, backgrounds and circumstances of each author to write perfectly what He wanted to say.
7. Why only 66 books? Weren’t there other religious writings worth considering?: By 400 AD, the church was unanimously agreed on which books God had truly inspired. Bible books...
  - a. displayed divine authorship qualities
  - b. were written, edited and endorsed by credible prophets/spokesmen for God
  - c. could be traced back to the time and writer it claims to be from
  - d. were records of true facts
  - e. were accepted by the Jewish church, the early and latter Christian church, and early church councils.
8. Questions to consider when applying what the Bible says to today:
  - a. What did this passage mean to the people it was first given to?
  - b. What principles are found in this passage that are true in all time periods and circumstances?
  - c. How does this passage apply right now?
  - d. What does God want me to do about it?
  - e. Who does God want me to tell what I’ve discovered?