



Session Two

How Our Bible Came To Be

Key Concepts

1. The Bible was completed over many centuries from many sources.
2. The Bible reflects the authentic relationship of God and His people.
3. The Bible is consistent, complete, and true, despite some insignificant errors of fact.
4. Sts. Sahag and Mesrob made it possible for Armenians to read Scripture in their native tongue.

Objectives

Students will

1. Read about oral tradition and its place in the formation of the Old Testament.
2. Identify sections of the Bible for which they have made bookmarks.
3. Describe the work of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob.

Materials: One set per student of 10 construction paper strips (1" by 5") with five strips in one color, and five in another. Scissors, several colors of thin-point and thick-point markers, and vari-colored stick-on stars with which students will decorate their strips as Bible bookmarks. For this and for all upcoming sessions, have Bibles, pencils, paper.

Background: This session answers some common questions about Bible origins, authorship and inerrancy (meaning the belief that each word of the Bible is to be taken as literally true) from the perspective of the Armenian Church. It is important for students to know that their Church has a logical and solid "stand" on these matters, particularly when so many opinions about the Bible and its contents are being aired on every side today.

The session also emphasizes the universal character of the wonderful work done by Sts. Sahag and Mesrob. They are true examples of apostleship, carrying the Good News far and wide to many places and peoples.

Procedure

1. Begin with prayer. Review last week's **Looking In** section. For your information: The "I" in the passage is God, and the "you" is God's people, including us. To have words "upon your heart" means to know them well and take them seriously. Changes in one's life if one takes the words seriously might include wasting less time, not gossiping or idle chatter, and more time spent thinking about and praying to God. (15 min)
2. Give each student a set of ten paper strips, on which they should write with markers the names of the following sections of the Bible: on five (all the same color) have them write Old Testament, Pentateuch/Law, History, Wisdom, Prophets. On the other set have them write New Testament, Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Epistles, Revelation. (Make sure they write the titles on the strips in a way that will allow the writing to be seen once the strips are inserted into the Bible.)



They can use the markers and stars to decorate the strips as they wish to. Have students insert their two strips marked “Old Testament” and “New Testament” at the beginnings of those divisions as markers. Then have them place the other strips at the beginnings of the section titles as follows:

Pentateuch/Law: beginning of Genesis
 History: beginning of Joshua
 Wisdom: beginning of Job
 Prophets: beginning of Isaiah
 Gospels: beginning of Matthew
 Acts of the Apostles: beginning of that book
 Epistles: beginning of Romans
 Revelation: beginning of that book

Look through the sections together to note the books each one contains. (You might consider asking students to laminate their bookmarks for next week. Self-stick laminating sheets are widely available.) (15 min)

3. Have students read **How It All Began** in the Student Text. (5 min)

4. Read “**Breathed By God**”: **Asdvadzashoonch**. Help students memorize the passage to be learned.

- a. The phrase “all that I have commanded you” means that Jesus wants His disciples to do more than teach others His moral and ethical principles. He wants them to show and teach others to love each other as He loved everyone. In saying “I am with you to the end of the age” Jesus does not mean any limited time that we can measure on earth. He means that in everything He is with us until He returns for the Second Coming, when all earthly life will end. In other words, He will be with us forever.
- b. He helped share the Good News of salvation by giving three entire nations their own alphabet.
- c. All of us have opportunities to share the Good News with people right where we are in the spirit of St. Mesrob. Examples: Teaching Sunday School, sharing our faith heritage through public school presentations and papers, and being a good neighbor. (15 min)

5. As a review, divide the class into teams with the same number of players on each team. Each team should have one Bible to use. Call out the names of books of the Bible, and let the teams use the Bibles to tell you what section each book appears in (according to the bookmarks they made earlier.) Keep score on the chalkboard, and give the winning team a round of applause. Review the memorized passage; close with prayer. (10 min)

QUIK QUIZ #2 answers: (1-F, 2-F, 3-“breathed by God,” 4-5: Jesus; the Bible, 6-oral tradition, 7-Georgia or Albania, 8-B, 9-B, 10-A)