

Summary: SDA Fundamental 1: The Bible

Read Before:

Aim: Where did the Bible come from? The Bible is Gods guide for us

Do you know what an instruction manual is?

Did you ever get something new with an instruction manual?

Did you read the manual first? / Did you read the manual when you got stuck?

Have you noticed what your Mum or Dad do when they get something new? Do they read the manual straight away or do they try to figure it out for themselves first and only read the manual if they get stuck.

Sometimes manuals don't make sense or aren't helpful; sometimes there are mistakes. Here are some silly instructions:

(<http://www.doheth.co.uk/funny/doomed/> <http://www.rinkworks.com/said/warnings.shtml>)

On a child's Superman costume: *Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.*

On a knife sharpener: *Caution: knives are sharp.*

On a muffin packet: *Remove wrapper, open mouth, insert muffin, eat.*

On a bottle of shampoo for dogs: *Caution: The contents of this bottle should not be fed to fish.*

Today we are going to talk about one instruction manual that doesn't have mistakes. (Hold up a Bible)

The Bible is made up of 66 books or letters written by more than 40 different authors, and it took 1500 years to write.

Show: Essential Bible Reference "The story of the Bible." - This book tells us about some of the different people who wrote the books of the Bible; it shows how it was written; and copied; and translated.

Read the rules for translation from the last page.

Now you would think with that many different people writing over 1500 years, there would be disagreements in it – but there isn't. (Sometimes people say there are problems but that is when they read just one verse by itself and don't read the rest of the chapter to see what the author really meant.)

Also, you might think that a book written 2000 years ago or more wouldn't be any use today; but the Bible is still very popular and helpful.

Can we believe what the Bible says? Do you remember what a prophecy is? The Bible contains more than 3000 prophecies which have already happened!

Many of the places mentioned in the Bible have been found by archaeologists. Many of the people in the Bible are also written about in books other than the Bible (eg. Kings history books)

What is special about the Bible? Read 2 Timothy 3:16 (Scripture inspired by God) – We call the Bible the "Word of God"

The Bible was written by all kinds of different people, and they wrote about all kinds of different people. Have you ever noticed how the people written about in the Bible weren't perfect and often made mistakes? - They were humans, just like we are and they made mistakes just like we do, and perhaps we can learn from their mistakes too.

Many people find when they try and read the Bible that it seems really boring. They try to read the Bible like it is a school book, or a story book; but that is not what the Bible is about. The Bible is a special book to teach us about God.

The first thing you need to do before you read the Bible is pray to God and ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to help you understand and learn from what you are reading. Don't read too much at a time, read a few verses and then stop and think about them. And then the most important thing is not just to learn about the Bible but to do what it says.

Read James 1:22