

# No Book Like This Book!

## ***Purpose of the Lesson***

The students will understand that the claims, unity, and survival of the Bible make it different from any other book in the world.

## **1 Peter 1:25**

Do you have a bookshelf at home? How many books do you have there? What is it that makes them different from each other? No doubt the sizes vary, as well as the number of pages, and the contents of each book. Some of them were written to entertain you, while others were written to educate you. Just as the books in your home differ from one another, so the Bible is different from any other book in the world. The claims the Bible makes of itself set it apart, as compared to other books. It claims to be the Word of God. The unity of the Bible also sets it apart. Think about it. There are sixty-six books written by more than forty authors over a period of 1600 years, and yet it has but one central message. Now that's unique! In this day and age books come and go; some are bestsellers and others are failures. In time, many go out of print and are no longer available, but not so with the Bible. Its uniqueness is also seen in its survival over the centuries. When it comes to the Bible, there is "No book like this Book!"

**Unique** – Being the only one of its kind.

## ***Checklist***

1. An award for the winning team in the Bible drill.
2. Copy the two student reports and select students to read them on the Bible's survival.
3. Video Introduction.

## General Lesson Format

Teacher's Note: Enhance this lesson with the video introduction available as part of the Lifelines Media Pak (See LCM catalog.)

### Introduction

#### Lecture

Pick up your Bible and take a good look at it. What kind of cover does it have? What color is it? Look at its pages, examine the print, does it really look different from any other book that you have? You probably won't see any differences between the Bible and any other book by just casually observing and comparing them. The uniqueness of the Bible lies deeper than what you can see.

That which is between the covers of a book is what sets it apart from other books. The contents of the book you hold in your hand are unique. In fact, when it comes to the Bible there is no book like this book. The Bible is unique from all other books in its claims about itself, in its unity, and in its survival over the years. Let's begin by seeing what the Bible claims about itself.

### Content

1. The Bible is unique in its **claims**.  
It claims to be the very Words of God recorded for you to read.

Teacher's Note: Use a Bible drill on the following verses to show the unique claims the Bible makes about itself, that it is the Word of God. Divide into two teams. The students are to hold their Bible in one hand above their head. Announce the passage they are to look up. The students should repeat the passage and you say "Go." They then look up the passage. The first student to find the passage stands to read it. Make a brief comment on each verse after it is read. Give an award to the winning team at the end of the lesson.

#### Bible Drill Passages

Exodus 17:14	God told Moses to write a book (The first five books of the Bible).
Exodus 24:4	Moses recorded the words of the Lord.
Ezekiel 1:3	God's Word came directly to Ezekiel.
Joel 1:1	The Word of the Lord came to the prophet Joel.
1 Corinthians 14:37	Paul claims that he wrote the commandments of God.
1 Thessalonians 2:13	Paul's message was to be received as the very Word of God.
Revelation 21:5	God told John to write <i>these</i> words.

#### Lecture

The Old Testament writers claimed their words were the very Words of God over 3,800 times. New Testament writers frequently quoted the Old Testament as well as other passages in the New Testament confirming both the entire Bible as the Word of God. So we see that the Bible is unique in that it claims to be the Word of God. Now you might be thinking, "So what! I could write a book and make the claim that it is the Word of God." But before you do, consider that the Bible is also unique in its unity.

2. The Bible is unique in its **unity**.

Do you think ten authors from one time period, one country, and one language could each write on a controversial subject and all agree? What if we were to write a story tonight with each person here writing one paragraph of the story, do you think our story would make a lot of sense? Would there be much unity to that story?

The Bible is unified in its message even in light of the following:

Teacher's Note: As you teach this portion of the lesson have the students fill in blanks in the Liven It Up section of their *Student Lifelines*. Give the students the *walk of life* or the *location* and then have them answer with the writer's name. You may have to give additional clues such as, "He wrote many proverbs," for Solomon.

The Bible was written over a period of **1600** years.

The Bible is divided into **sixty-six** books.

The Bible was written in three **languages**.

**Hebrew**, the language of the Old Testament

**Greek**, the language of the New Testament

**Aramaic**, the language of the Jewish people after the Babylonian captivity. Several chapters in Ezra and Daniel were written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke.

The Bible was penned by more than **forty** human writers from various walks of life.

**Moses**, a lawgiver

**Joshua**, a military general

**Solomon**, a king

**Daniel**, a prime minister

**Amos**, a herdsman

**Matthew**, a tax collector

**Luke**, a doctor

**Peter**, a fisherman

The penmen of the Bible also wrote in different **locations**.

**Moses** in the wilderness

**Jeremiah** in a dungeon

**Luke** while traveling

**Paul** in prison

**John** on island of Patmos

Through all of this diversity there is great unity because one author guided the holy men of God who wrote the Bible as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). This book of books contains poetry, history, theology, proverbs, parables, and more; yet it all contains but one central message. The unity that comes out of such diversity is another proof that there is no book like this Book.

3. The Bible is unique in its **survival**.

It has survived many centuries and numerous critics.

The survival of God's Word through the centuries sets the Bible apart from all other books. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). He also declared the supernatural protection of the Bible saying, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). He is clearly making the point that each individual letter down to the smallest of marks is important. Every single mark that makes up every letter which makes up each word is important to Jesus. He guaranteed its survival. Let's hear a few reports concerning the survival of the Bible.

### **Student Reports/Readings**

#### **Student #1**

In 303 A.D. the Roman emperor, Diocletian, issued four increasingly harsh decrees designed to compel Christians to take part in worship of heathen gods. These decrees began the *Great Persecution* period and ordered churches to be torn down and the Scriptures to be destroyed by fire. Even his wife, Valeria, who was probably a Christian, was forced to sacrifice to the gods during this persecution. However, just ten years later another Roman emperor, Constantine, made Christianity the state religion.

#### **Student #2**

Voltaire was the pen name of François-Marie Arouet, a French writer who lived in the eighteenth century. He was one of the most influential philosophers in France and often attacked the Bible. Two years before his death in 1778 he wrote, "One hundred years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seeker." Voltaire may have excelled as a philosopher, but as a prophet he greatly missed the mark.

### **Conclusion**

The uniqueness of the Bible should get your attention. You can boldly put your faith in it, and its message can change your life. Why not determine now that you are going to use your Word of Life *Quiet Time Diary* and to read your Bible each and every day; after all there is no book like this Book.

When it comes to the Bible, we can honestly and boldly say that there is truly no book like this Book. The claims by those who penned the Bible made it clear they were recording God's Word for man to read. Are you reading it? Its amazing unity is possible only because there was but one author, God Himself. Do you know the author of the Bible? Knowing Him is the key to understanding His Word. Finally, its survival in the face of numerous attacks should not surprise us because God has said His Word endures forever (1 Peter 1:25).

## **Lesson Options**

### ***Junior High Adaptation***

You could take a few minutes and have your students write a story when you come to the section on the unity of the Bible. Give each student a 3x5 card. Tell them you are going to write a story titled *Amanda's First Day at School*. Her parent's names are Tony and Faye. Each student should write three to five sentences of this story. They should not consult with each other. Gather the cards, organize them the best you can, and then read the story. There should not be much unity to the story. Contrast the student's story with God's Word which contains but one central message penned by more than forty writers over a 1,600 year time period.

### ***Senior High Adaptation***

Invite someone with some higher education in biblical studies. Ask him to talk about some of the attempts to destroy the Bible throughout the centuries. This will reinforce the power of God to preserve His Word.

### ***Small Group Adaptation***

After you teach about the different kinds of people whom God used to pen His Word, do a contrast between Luke and 1 John. Luke was a doctor and John was a fisherman. Note the little details that Luke records and the simple words that John uses. Emphasize that the message of God's Word is still trustworthy in spite of the many different people that God used to pen His Word.

### ***Large Group Adaptation***

After you teach about the unity of the Bible, break your group into smaller research groups. Have them look for references to Christ in the following Old Testament passages: Genesis 3, Genesis 21-22, Numbers 21, Ruth, Psalm 22 and 118, Isaiah 53, Hosea, and Jonah.

## **Reference Materials**

John F. MacArthur, *Why I Trust The Bible* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983), 118.

Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (San Bernardino, California: Campus Crusade for Christ, 1972) 392.

Henry Clarence Thiessen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949)

## **Discipleship Groups**

### ***Discussion Starters***

1. How do you know there is no book like the Bible?
2. How can the unity of the Bible strengthen your faith?
3. In what way(s) is the Bible attacked today? Will it survive these attacks?

### ***Right Now!***

The Bible's claims about itself, its unity, and its survival throughout the centuries point to a book unlike any other book known to man. Such evidence leads you to the conclusion that the Bible is God's divine revelation to man. Decide now to read your Bible each and every day. After all there is "No book like this Book!"

### ***Try this week...***

Hospital Visitation (ICS-9) Visit someone in the hospital and while you are there read a portion of Scripture to them.

### ***Answer for life***

Will God's Word last forever? 1 Peter 1:25

***The Bible is unlike any other book in the world.***

