

Making it Mine

A Bible study for kids ready to
grow a faith of their own.

Month 5 Week 2

THE BIBLE

READ:

**Hebrews 1-5
Psalm 119**

Heart graffiti:

**"Therefore,
since we are
receiving a
kingdom that
cannot be
shaken, let us
be thankful,
and so worship
God acceptably
with reverence
and awe.**

Hebrews 12:28

The Bible that we have today did not just drop to us intact from heaven, but took 1600 years and 40 authors to write. It is made of 66 books divided into two **testaments**, the old and the new. Christians consider the words written in the Bible to be the divinely **inspired** words of God. In other words, we believe that God guided the human authors in what to write. Not only were the authors of the Bible the servants of God in recording His words for us, but I believe God's hand has been in preserving His words as well. The Bible has endured much in order to be in our hands today.

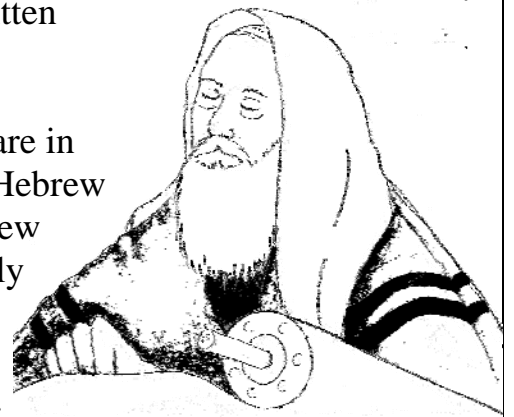
What does Isaiah 40:6-8 reassure us about the durability of God's words? _____

What did Jesus say about the permanence of God's word in Matt. 5:18? _____

The books that have been included in the Bible have been studied very carefully. Their **reliability** has been measured by three criteria:

1. The number of manuscripts found
2. The time that they were written
3. Their accuracy

There has also been great care in **translating** the Bible from the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) that it was originally written in. Today we have many different translations, and languages, to choose from.



What do these words mean?

testaments: _____

inspired: _____

reliability: _____

translating: _____

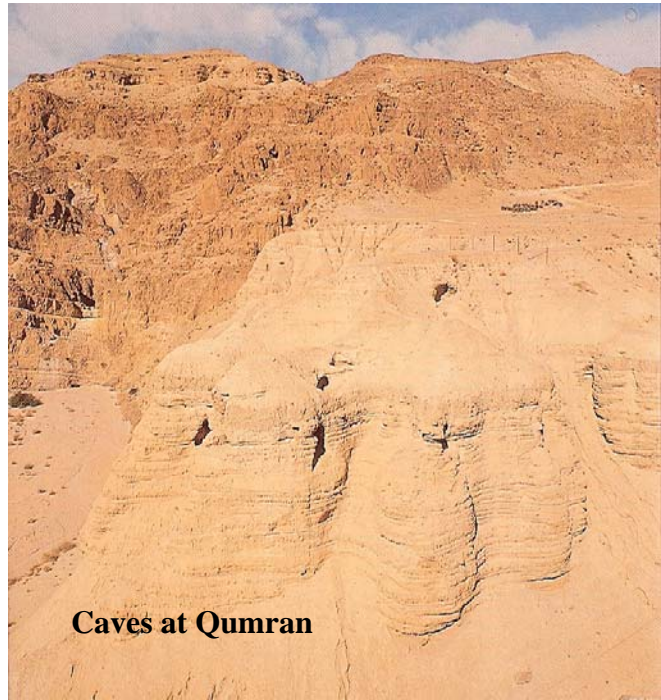
ABUNDANCE

The number of ancient manuscripts gives us good reason to trust the Bible. The most ancient copies of any non Bible written work is Homer's Iliad with 643 known ancient copies. Compare that with the Bible: there are over 10,000 ancient Old Testament manuscripts, and 5,700 New Testament manuscripts!

ACCURACY

There are many examples where the Bible has proved accurate in the information that it includes. For example, one thing that the Bible was made fun of for a long time was its mention of Sargon, king of Assyria in Isaiah 20:1. Excavations had revealed the names of the kings of Assyria, and Sargon was not one of them. For some, it was proof that the Bible was little more than a fairy tale. But then another Assyrian city was unearthed, and records of Sargon, a previously unknown king, were found. Sargon is today one of the best known of the Assyrian kings!

Although the Bible was not written with the purpose of giving scientific or historical information, there are many such truths included. Often these could not have been known at the time that they were written.



Caves at Qumran

DATING

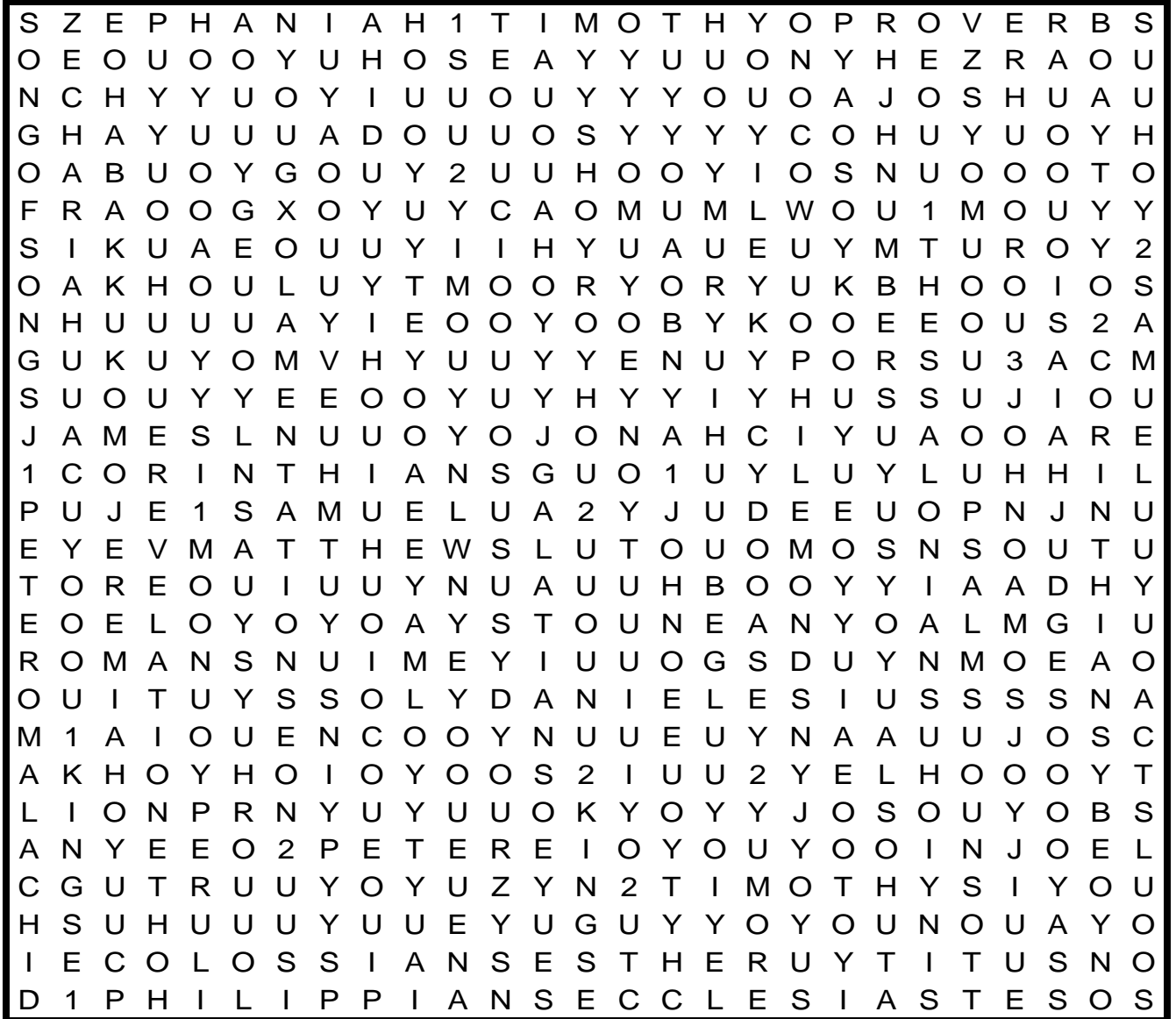
More than 600 copies of Old Testament books and fragments of books were found in the Dead Sea caves at Qumran in 1947. These were 1,000 years older than any previously known copies, yet were the same in content. For example, in the entire book of Isaiah, there were only three words with minor differences!

In the New Testament, only books thought to be written within one generation of Jesus' time have been included in the Bible. A fragment of papyrus with a few verses of John on it was found that show that it was already being copied and circulated some distance away by 125 AD. We also have the writings of Papias from 110 AD that tell us that he was familiar with Matthew and Mark's Gospels. Polycarp was another man from around the same time period that wrote about all four of the Gospels. (Jones 18-22)



PUZZLE PAGE

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



**THERE ARE 51 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
HIDDEN IN THIS WORD SEARCH. CAN
YOU FIND THEM?**

How many books are there in the Bible? _____

How many Old Testament books are there? _____

How many New Testament books are there? _____



THE TELEPHONE GAME

Have the kids get in a circle and play the Bible version of this game. The first student whispers a verse (try Hebrews 4:12) into the ear of the kid next to him. That child repeats it into the ear of the next and so on. If you don't have very many students, you may want to go around the circle a few times. Does the verse change? Now consider the number of times the Bible was copied in a thousand, or few thousand, years time. How remarkable is it that it remained so consistent? How important is it that it was written down?

THE ILLUMINATED TEXT

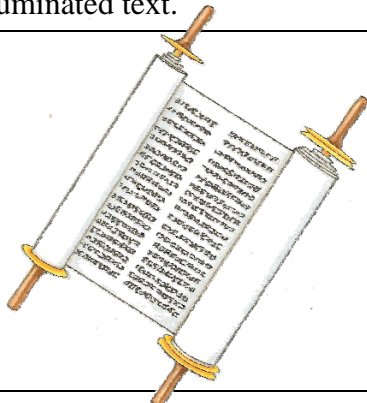
In Medieval days, when Bibles were still hand copied works, the scribes would often decorate, or illuminate the text with intricate artwork. Gold leaf was used to reflect light, and the illustration itself was meant to enlighten the reader to the meaning of the text. For pictures of very old illuminated texts, visit [this site](#):

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/medieval/mss/lat/bib/e/007.htm>

For information on the contemporary St. John's Bible project, go to:

http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/prints_books/saintjohnsbible/index.html

Print out the following page and make copies for each student so they can make their own illuminated text. 🍌



WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

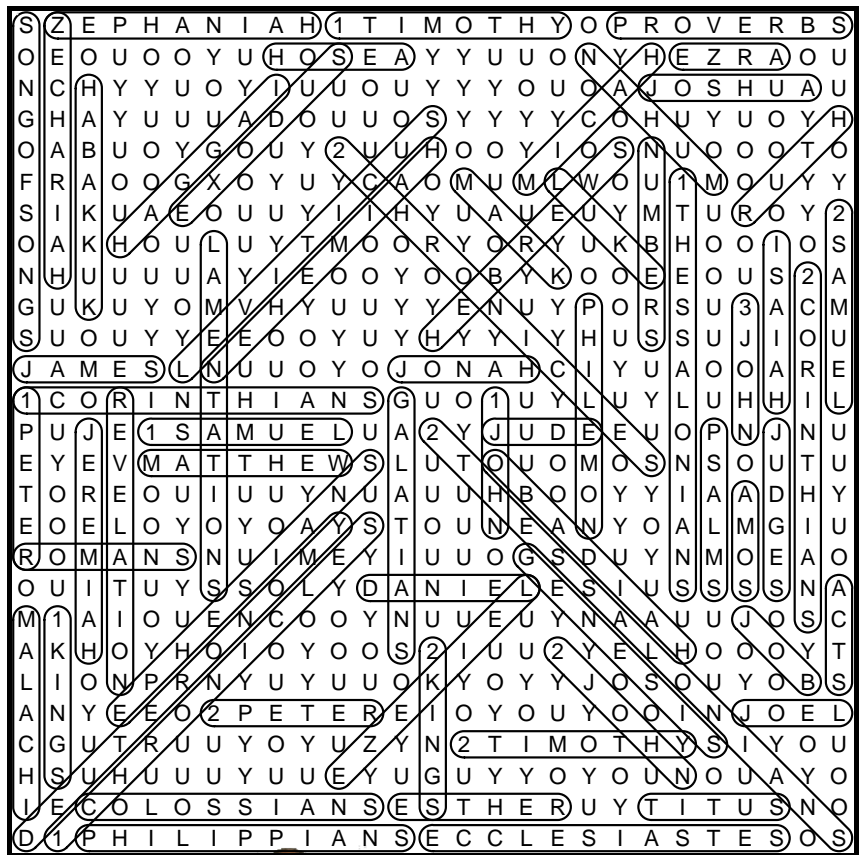
**ABUNDANCE, ACCURACY
AND DATING p. 2**

Jones, Timothy Paul. Conspiracies and the Cross. Lake Mary, FL: Front Line: A Strang Company, 2008.

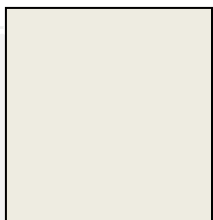
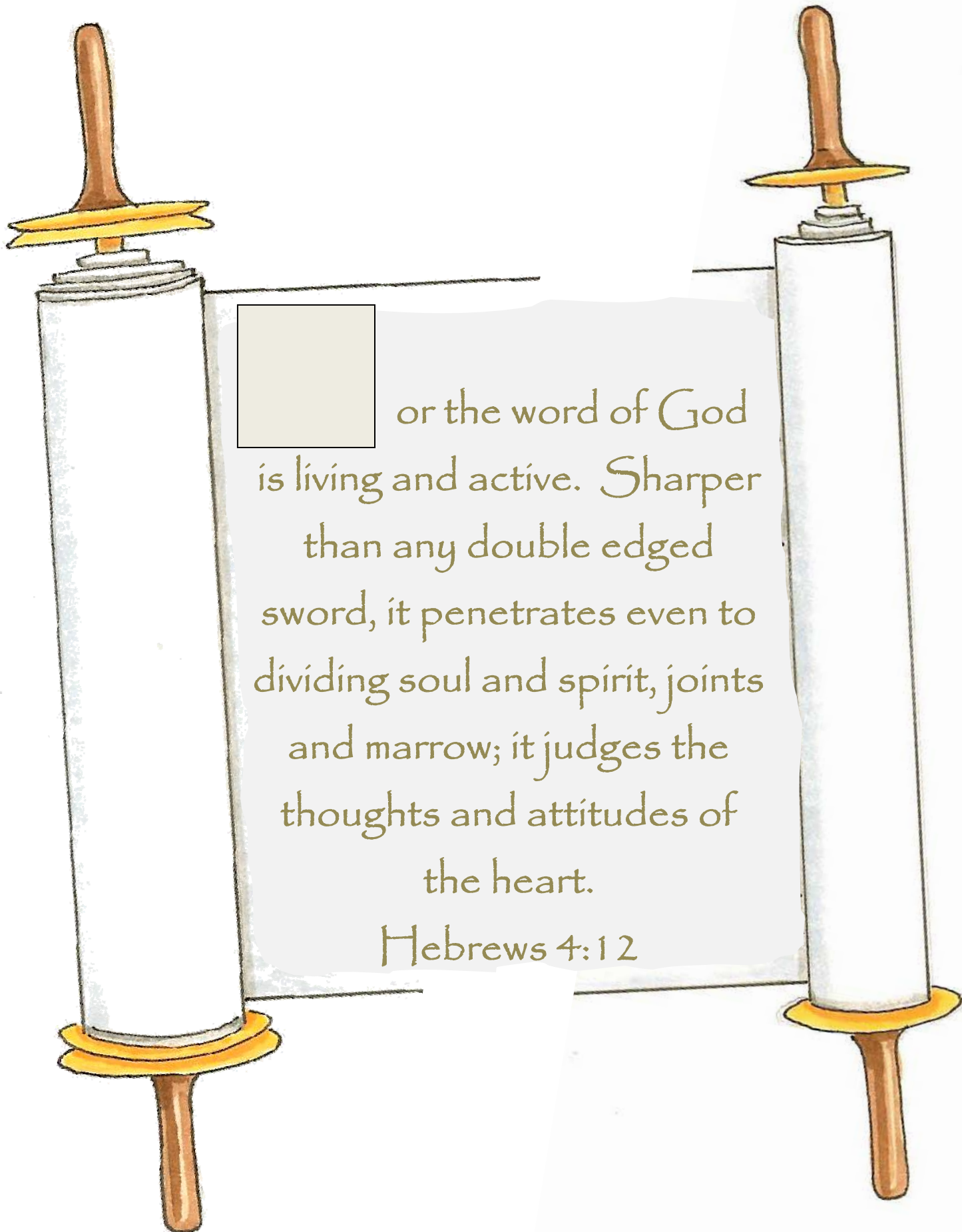
Also good resources:

How We Got Our Bible: Christian History, Issue 43, pages 30-31(Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, Inc. 1997)

Keller, Timothy. The Reason for God. New York: Penguin Group, 2008.



Would you like to receive this study guide by email, or make comments? Contact me at kayannausherman@hotmail.com



or the word of God
is living and active. Sharper
than any double edged
sword, it penetrates even to
dividing soul and spirit, joints
and marrow; it judges the
thoughts and attitudes of
the heart.

Hebrews 4:12