

## GMSAM Youth Ministry

### Curriculum Outline

**Courses:** Learning the Book of the Bible (Old and New Testament) and Learning the Divisions of the Books of the Bible

#### I. Introduction

##### a. What is the Bible?

- i. God's word - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for instruction..." (II Timothy 3:16)
- ii. Truth - "...thy word is truth." (John 17:17)
- iii. Not a comprehensive record of all biblical events - "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." (John 21:25)
- iv. Not a strict chronological ordering of events
  1. Events in Psalms (middle of the Old Testament) occurred concurrently with the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles (near the beginning of the Old Testament)
  2. Writing of the prophets (near the end of the Old Testament) occurred during the time of events in Kings and Chronicles (near the beginning of the Old Testament)
- v. King James Version (KJV) represents canonized scripture translated by King James of England in 1611

##### b. Who are the Bible's authors?

- i. Those inspired to write God's word (II Timothy 3:16)
- ii. Various authors, some of which are unknown
  1. Prophets - Moses, Daniel, Jeremiah, etc.
  2. Kings - David, Solomon
  3. Apostles - Peter, John, Paul, etc.
  4. Others - Mark, Luke, etc.

##### c. What are the primary languages in which the Bible was written?

- i. Hebrew (Old Testament)
- ii. Greek (New Testament)

##### d. What are the key ways God dealt with humans?

- i. Dispensations are the various times during which God deals with humans and He has a plan of salvation for each dispensation
- ii. Salvation always obtained through obedience to God's plan during each dispensation
- iii. Assists in understanding the general order of the Bible
- iv. Order of dispensations
  - 1. Innocence (Eternity – Adam and Eve sinning); Salvation obtained by not eating of the fruit of the tree of life
  - 2. Conscience (Adam and Eve's fall – Flood); No written law, but Salvation obtained during Noah's day by getting on the ark
  - 3. Human Government (Flood – Judgment on Babel); No written law, but salvation for God's chosen people during Abraham's time obtained through circumcision
  - 4. Promise (Judgment on Babel – Exodus from Egypt); No written law, but salvation obtained in Moses' time through applying the blood on the door posts during the Passover
  - 5. Law (Exodus from Egypt – Day of Pentecost); Salvation obtained through obedience to the 10 Commandments
  - 6. Grace (Day of Pentecost – Rapture); Salvation obtained through water baptism in Jesus' name, receiving the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues, and living an overcoming life
  - 7. Millennium or Kingdom Age (Rapture – Eternity); Salvation obtained through not taking the mark of the beast and assisting the Jews during the tribulation

## **II. Organization of the Bible**

### *a. Hierarchy of the organization*

- i. 2 Testaments
- ii. 9 Divisions
- iii. 66 Books
- iv. Chapters
- v. Verses

### *b. Testaments*

- i. Testaments are covenants
- ii. Covenant between God and His people
  - 1. Old Testament or old covenant - 39 Books

2. New Testament or new covenant – 27 Books

c. Divisions

i. **Nine** groupings within the Testaments

ii. **Old Testament – 5 divisions**

1. **Law**

- a. Reflects God's general rules for humanity during those times
- b. **5 Books:** Genesis – Deuteronomy

2. **History**

- a. Reflects historical events during the time of Israel's key leaders (judges and kings)
- b. **12 Books:** Joshua – Esther

3. **Devotion**

- a. Reflects poetry and hymns of devotion to God, many which were sung by the children of Israel
- b. **5 Books:** Job – Song of Solomon

4. **Major Prophets**

- a. Reflects God's warnings to Israel through prophets
- b. Called "major" since the books are longer than the "minor" prophet books
- c. **5 Books:** Isaiah – Daniel

5. **Minor Prophets**

- a. Reflects God's warnings to Israel through prophets
- b. **12 Books:** Hosea – Malachi

iii. **New Testament – 4 divisions**

1. **Gospel**

- a. Reflects Jesus' ministry and introduction of the new covenant
- b. **4 Books:** Matthew – John

2. **History of the Church**

- a. Reflects the history of how the church started
- b. **1 Book:** Acts

3. **Special Letters (Epistles) or Pauline Epistles**

- a. Reflects Paul's letters to specific churches

b. **14 Books:** Romans - Hebrews

**4. General Letters (Epistles)**

a. Reflects general letters to the church

b. Various authors

c. **7 Books:** James - Jude

**5. Prophecy**

a. Reflects prophecy of events of the last days, rapture, and events after the rapture

b. **1 Book:** Revelation