You Can Understand the Bible
Luke 1:1-4

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Bible is the ______-__________ book of all time and comes today in hundreds of languages. Some think the Bible is too ______ to understand. Is it really? God’s way is always a __________. God loves us and He gave us His will in written form in the Bible so that every age and nation could ________ the truth and be __________. God wants every person to _________ and to _________ His will.

Some people think the Bible is just too ________ to understand. Perhaps you’ve heard people say, “The Bible is not ________ to be understood.” Or, “The Bible says different things to different __________.” Or, “What is important is not so much what the Bible says but what the Bible says to ______.” I’ve heard people claim, “The New Testament addressed the ____________ of the first century but really doesn't speak to us today.”

Others dismiss God’s Word by saying, “It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are __________ and love Jesus.” Then there’s the skeptic who says, “You can make the Bible say anything you _______ it to say.” Some say, “You just take a passage of Scripture and you read it to a group of people and there’ll be as many ___________________ of that passage as there are people in the room.”

These popular charges against the Bible lose sight of God’s ____________ in giving us His Word. They seem to forget about God’s incredible ___________ to have a relationship with us that lasts for an eternity. That relationship means that we can know ______ and know His _______. The Lord Jesus promised, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you __________” (John 8:31-32).

Our reading comes from the opening words of The Gospel According to Luke 1:1-4. Is the Bible meant to be understood? The answer is yes, but don’t take my word for it. Let’s see what the Bible has to say for itself. Psalm 19:8 says, “The precepts of the L ORD are __________, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the L ORD is ________, enlightening the eyes.” Psalm 119:18 says, “Open my eyes, that I may ________ wonderful things from Your law.” Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a ________ to my feet and a __________ to my path.” Psalm 119:125 says, “I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may ________ Your testimonies.” Psalm 119:130 says, “The unfolding of Your words gives ________; It gives understanding to the simple.” Proverbs 6:23 says, “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the ________ of life.”

When people say the Bible is not meant to be understood, I wonder how they came to that conclusion. Did they get it from the _________ or from other people? Surprisingly, some
churches don’t want you to ________ your Bible. These churches worry that if you read your Bible, you’ll find out what the Bible actually says and that it’s ___________ from what they teach and practice. The Bible has God’s ___________ attached to it, and it challenges those who vary from it.

The apostle Paul ___________ in Scripture about this kind of problem, and even in his day there were people who were misusing and tampering with God’s Word. Read 2 Corinthians 4:2-4.

The devil will do anything, anything to keep people from understanding the _______ of God’s Word. He’d love nothing more than to ________ people to the gospel so they won’t know the truth. Satan will ___________ with the Word to convince you to believe something that’s only partially true. He realizes his message must _______ true or you won’t buy into it. If he tells a _______ that sounds true, he might lead some folks astray. If he can make his lie really _____________, he will. But when people obey the lie rather than _________ to God, they’re deceived with a counterfeit religion. The devil has supplied plenty of counterfeits in our world today.

We wouldn’t know what the truth is and what error is if it weren’t for this permanent ___________ of truth in the Bible. The Word of God provides that standard of truth for _____. God’s Word is settled in heaven and it doesn’t _______. It’s this stability, this security, this solid foundation that allows Christians to remain ___________ to God. God was wise to give His message to mankind in ____________ form in the Bible because by giving us the Bible, we can know the truth which makes us free. The difference between Christ’s true disciples and other people is that true disciples ___________ in the Word of God, while the others _________ away from the Word.

So, we must stay with God’s Word. God expected ancient Israelite parents to _________ their children the Law of God. The Lord God was concerned that a generation might arise that didn’t know His ________________. Read what Moses commanded them in Deuteronomy 31:10-13. If the Bible were so _________ to understand, God wouldn’t have commanded all Israel to read the law every seven years. Truly, we ________ understand the Bible. The Bible says, “The secret things belong to the LOR  our God, but the things that are _____________ belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29). God gave us His Word to bless us.

Read what Deuteronomy 30:11-14 explains. God not only wants us to understand it, He also _________ us to love and obey it. The Word of God went out to _____ Israel. There were all kinds of people ___________. There were the people who might be wise, and then there were the naïve; there were people who were conservative, and there were people who were liberal; there were people who were
educated, the young, and the old. Those who didn't know God’s Law were expected to _____ the Law and _____ it. You’re not an exception. God expects you to know His will.

First Timothy 2:3-4 says, “This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the __________ of the truth.” God doesn’t communicate in riddles, nor does He hold back some ______ message for only the select few. Oh, no! God wants ____________ to be able to know the truth, to be saved, and to live in heaven with Him. The Bible says in Hebrews 2:9 that Jesus tasted __________ for every person. Why then would God give us a Bible with the words of ____________ , but give it in a way that we couldn’t understand it? That’s ridiculous.

When God inspired Luke to ________ one of the four gospel accounts, He chose this Greek Gentile to write to a Roman authority about Jesus Christ, a Jew. Luke didn’t grow up knowing about God, and Theophilus had only heard bits and pieces. __________ what the inspired Luke wrote in Luke 1:1-4. Theophilus apparently wanted to know the truth, and Luke said that he could tell him with ____________ the things concerning Jesus Christ. The Bible was written to impart to us _______ knowledge, _______ knowledge, and the _________ knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Read what the apostle John said in John 20:30-31. God gave us this book, the Bible, so that we might ________ in Jesus Christ and be saved and have life in His name. I cannot imagine why, if this is the ___________ of the Bible, that God would write something that nobody can understand. The fact is we can understand what we ________ to know to be saved and go to heaven and live with God forever!

Read Acts 17:2-4. The Scripture is not some strange ___________, but it’s a book that gives life and tells the marvelous story of Jesus Christ.

From this inspired book, we learn the most wonderful story of _____ and ___________. To some it may be meaningless, but to us it’s the _______ meaningful story in the entire world. I’m so thankful that God chose men and inspired them to ________ that story down in the first century so that we could hear it, and we could read it as it really happened, and could believe and obey it. The New Testament gives us ______________ accounts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, a story of good new that saves our souls. There simply is no better, no more important, no more meaningful story in the entire world.

The gospel provides God’s __________ unto salvation to everyone who believes it, according to Romans 1:16. God knew that He had to _______ Himself to mankind if they were to know and believe in Him and find salvation. We also can know some things through observing the universe, but we can’t know the ______ story; we can’t know it apart from the Word of God. The Bible says, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, then God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the ____________ preached to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). If we want to know
the __________ truth about God, we must go to His Word. Our task is to hear it, believe it, love it, obey it, and share it with others. Oh, thank God for the Bible!

The apostle Paul said, “For we write nothing else to you than what you _______ and ____________, and I hope you’ll understand until the end” (2 Corinthians 1:13). Paul wrote no other thing but what the Corinthians could understand; and we too can understand the Bible.

In fact, we must understand the Word of God and ________ it. Why? Because one day we will be __________ by the Word of God. The Lord Jesus said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the ________ that I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). My friend, you and I will be judged one day by the Words that are __________ in this book. We will stand before God and we’ll have to give an ____________ for our lives, and the standard will be these written Words.

The Lord Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who ________ the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter” (Matthew 7:21). We must know what the will of God is. The purest __________ of God’s will is found in the New Testament. So don’t settle for anything _______ than the Scriptures. They will lead you to an __________ knowledge of the Lord’s will. And they will give you the unfailing truth that ________ to eternal life. What kind of God says, “I’m going to judge you by the things ________ in the books” (Revelation 20:11-15 and John 12:48), but then gives us a book that people ________ understand? Wouldn’t such a God be a monster? But our God isn’t like that. He gives us a book so that we ________ understand. Our God loves us and wants all men to be ________ and to know the truth. Shouldn’t we strive to know His will? If knowing and doing the will of God is the difference between eternal life and death, can we afford to __________ what He says?

The apostle Paul said, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one ____________, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). God wants us to ________ the Bible so that we will know the truth and not be ashamed on the Day of Judgment because we didn’t follow the teaching of the Bible. Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

I hope you’ll follow those ________ and that you’ll come to Christ. To hear the Words of Christ and believe them is a part of what it means to come to Him. Do that; ___________ of your sins and __________ the name of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Repentance means that you ________ your heart; you leave sin and you turn to the ways of God. So with love and faith and repentance, be __________ for the forgiveness of your sins as Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16 teach. The baptism of Christ is an immersion. When you do, God will ________ you with His grace and forgiveness and add you to His __________. He’ll make you His child and give you an inheritance with Him. My friend, won’t you do that? Won’t you do it today?