

Session 2 – How the New Testament Fits Together.



Introduction – In order to understand the New Testament, one must know how it is connected to the Old Testament. One writer emphasizes that *the New Testament is concealed in the Old and the Old Testament is revealed in the New*. Session One offered the historical background from Malachi to John the Baptist during the 400 years of God’s silence. **This session will overview the New Testament by illustrating how the 27 books complement each other.**

New Testament Books consist of a variety of literature. The four **Gospels** communicate the birth, life, teaching, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, with a major emphasis on the “Passion Week of Jesus”. The **Acts of the Apostles** describes early church history in response to the “Great Commission” given by Jesus. The **Epistles (letters)** were written to newly established churches across the Greco-Roman world. As the gospel message was preached to Jews and Gentiles, doctrinal clarity, Apostolic wisdom, and relational encouragement were needed to keep the church true to the “gospel”. **Paul’s Epistles** were written to specific churches and young pastors. **General Epistles**, by other leaders, were written to the early church at large. Every **Epistle** was a response to some issue (or issues) found in the city or town to which it was addressed. They emphasized how to live out the gospel under the leading of the Holy Spirit. The genius of God’s Word is that these first-century documents speak to similar issues in twenty first century churches today.

Open-ended Question - What question (or questions) do you have about the New Testament? Write them down and by the end of this Session see if you received an answer to your questions.

Video Assignment - Watch the YouTube video <https://youtu.be/8Y0FQCy44D8> on “*How the New Testament Fits Together*”.

Large Group Review- The teacher will highlight the categories in the “*Overview of the New Testament*” diagram, found on **page 9**, to lead a discussion on the main events, individuals and teaching that God used to proclaim the gospel and build the church. As the group responds, write some of your thoughts in the space provided on **page 5-6** to help you remember the flow of the New Testament events. Use the map of Paul’s Missionary Journeys on **page 11** to imagine the powerful expansion of the gospel. Locate the cities Paul visited on his journeys, as well as identify the location of the churches that received Paul’s letters.

Themes to Remember

Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

The Acts of the Apostles - (See map of Paul's Journeys)

Paul's Letters to 10 Churches - (Find the churches on the map)

Paul's Letters to Pastoral Leaders

General Epistles (Written by other leaders to the church at large)

Assignment for Individuals and/or Small Groups – On **Page 10**, you will find six (6) examples of church issues addressed by Paul and General Epistle writers. If you are studying this session individually (or in a group), **select one of the topics**, search the listed Scripture, and record your answers to the **four (4) points** listed below. **Share the results of your study and answers with another person or the small group. For further study, complete the remaining five (5) issues listed on the sheet.**

1. Read the Gospel Scripture passage next to the title of the topic. Then, study the New Testament Scripture on the issue and reflect on how it was addressed by Paul and other leaders.
2. Summarize the teaching on the issue found in the passages provided from the New Testament.
3. Identify how the same issue is impacting churches in Uganda. What can be done to overcome its impact by the grace of God?
4. As an emerging leader, what are some creative teaching methods you can use to teach God's view on these important issues in the church?

Answering Your Open-ended Question(s)– Remember, you were asked to write down one of your questions about any New Testament book? Did it get answered? If not, now's the time to present it to the teachers and get it answered. (There are NO silly questions)

Group Prayer: Finish this session with prayers of thanksgiving for all that the Triune God is doing in his church today. What are some things for which you are thankful?

Personal Prayer Assignment - In the space below, write a brief prayer asking the Lord to equip you to lead and strengthen God's people through a study of the New Testament books for the glory of God.

Overview of the New Testament

Four Gospels – Each Gospel paints a unique portrait of Jesus Christ that is written for an intended audience. Gospels are not biographies, rather they are eyewitness accounts telling the world that God’s saving purposes are fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ; the Son of God and Son of Man. Special emphasis is placed on the life, teaching, death and resurrection of our Lord.

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Matthew 28:18-19 Jewish audience Christ as King	Mark 10:45 Roman audience Christ as Servant	Luke 9:23-24 Greek audience Christ as Son of Man	John 3:16 Global audience Christ as Son of God

Acts of the Apostles – Dr. Luke’s 2nd book tells of the “actions” of the Apostles and other Christ followers in response to Christ’s Great Commission. From Jerusalem, they became witnesses of Jesus to the world (1:8). The church grew through God’s pouring out of His Spirit, who enabled the Apostles and other believers to spread the gospel message. In chapters 9-28, Acts highlights Peter and Paul’s ministry and encourages us to follow in their steps as witnesses to Jesus.

Paul’s Letters (Epistles) To Specific Churches

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians – Philemon
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

The Apostle Paul wrote these letters to young churches and friends to guide, encourage, and correct them. Most of the letters served a specific purpose, answered a question or addressed a particular problem the church was facing.

Paul’s Letters (Epistles) To Church Leaders

1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus

Paul writes to these young leaders to give guidance and encouragement as they teach/preach, disciple, and lead God’s people for the glory of God in the world.

Letters to Christians by Other Church Leaders

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

These nine Epistles were written by Apostles and leaders including Simon Peter, James, John and Jude. Sent to churches at large, these letters warned and corrected false teachers and provided encouragement and wisdom in face of persecution.

Assignment for Personal and Small Groups

- Select one of the topics listed below that Jesus taught in the Gospels and was addressed again in New Testament Letters
- On a separate page, summarize the teaching of these New Testament passages on the subject
- Identify how the topic is impacting churches in Uganda
- As an emerging leader, what are some creative teaching methods to address these important issues in the church?



Conflict and Division in Church (John 17)

- 1 Corinthians 1:10-3:21
- Ephesians 2:11-23
- James 4:1-10
- Romans 12:9-21
- Hebrews 12:14,15
- Romans 16: 17-20
- Ephesians 4:25-5:2



False Teachers (Matthew 23)

- Colossians 2:8, 16-23
- 2 Corinthians 10:1-11:15
- 2 Peter 2:1-22
- Jude 1-25
- 2 John 1-13



Spiritual Warfare (Matthew 4:1-11)

- 1 John 2:15-17
- Romans 1: 21-7:7-8:17
- 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- Colossians 2:15, 4:2-5
- 1 Peter 5:5-11
- 1 John 4:1-6



Money (Matthew 6:19-34)

- Romans 13:8
- Galatians 5:13-26
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15
- 1 Timothy 6:4-10; 6:17-19
- Hebrews 13:5
- 1 Peter 5:2-3
- Revelation 3:17
- James 5:1-6



Spiritual Gifts for Ministry (John 16:12-15)

- Romans 12:3-9
- 1 Corinthians 12 - 14
- Ephesians 4:7-15
- 1 Peter 4:9-10
- 2 Timothy 1:6,7



Marriage & Family (Matthew 19:1-15)

- 1 Corinthians 6:9 - 7:40
- Ephesians 5:3,4, 5:21 - 6:4
- Colossians 3:18 - 21
- Hebrews 13:4

