

# WHY did God cause the Bible to be written?

The Bible is much more than just a great collection of superb literature. It is the living Word of God. As such, it is the only piece of literature in the world that is capable of amazing things:

- It changes our hearts, offers hope, and encourages those who are struggling.
- It proclaims forgiveness.
- It guides, counsels, motivates.
- It reveals God's truth and warns the wicked.
- It tells us who God is and what he has done for us.
- It helps us deal with our burdens and causes us to fall on our knees in repentance.
- It purifies sinful hearts and heals broken hearts.
- It reconciles sinful mankind with a holy God.
- It blesses our lives with meaning and purpose.
- It provides the good news that Jesus has delivered us from our spiritual enemies of sin, death, and the devil.
- It lifts the downtrodden, strengthens the weak, emboldens the discouraged, and fills hungry souls with spiritual sustenance.
- It promises eternal life to all who believe its living message.

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## The question is, WHY?

### *Why would God go to so much trouble?*

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- Why would God go to the trouble of selecting such remarkable writers to record his thoughts and reveal his plan?
  - Why would he take almost 4,000 years to assemble his story?
  - Why did God's Spirit hover over the Bible writers to see that they dotted every *i* and crossed every *t*?

**God tells us exactly why. It is because he loves us and wants to give us eternal life. *Love is the answer.***

When you love someone, you want to be with them. And that's exactly what God wants for us. The Apostle John wrote, "But these [words] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

**God wants us to know his loving heart.** He wants to make our confidence in his promises grow stronger every day. He wants us to make a priority of hearing or reading his Word on a regular basis—every day, if possible.

Saint Luke recorded an event from Jesus' brief ministry on earth that will help us all examine our own attitudes about hearing God's word. As you read, ask yourself which of these two sisters reminds you of yourself and your own attitudes and behaviors regarding your relationship with God's holy book.

*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:38-42).*

We live in a culture in which life moves along at an extraordinary pace. It is easy to fall into a pattern that leaves little time for us to be together with God. Truth is, in these days of godlessness and false teachers, we need to stay connected to Jesus more than ever.

## What to look for when you read the Bible

Maybe the bigger question is why should I bother to take the time to read and digest something written as long ago as the Bible. This is a dangerous place to be because this is when we tend to forget what God has done for us. We start taking Jesus for granted. If this ever happens to you, look for Bible texts that address this habit. (Consider Romans 8:26; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Matthew 26:41; or Jeremiah 29:13.) Write them down and keep them handy, where you can refer to them. Think about the texts and ask God to help you overcome all of the barriers to hearing his Word every day.

## For thought and discussion

What distractions tempt you to abandon the habit of doing something spiritual every day?

How can parents train their children to read a portion of God's Word every day?

How would you mark God's goodness to your family or your country in a spiritual way?

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to remain connected with you daily through your Word and with the gift of prayer. Amen.

# Helps

In the days of the theologian Martin Luther (1483-1546), most Bibles were copied by hand; printed copies were costly and rare. Today, Bibles are available on many different platforms and quite inexpensive. It is possible to read God's Word on a smartphone, online, on a recorded disk, or by satellite. Take advantage of today's technology by hearing God speak to you and your family in his holy Word as he has done for thousands of years.

## Suggested activity

Practice sharing the truths of God's Word by pretending that one family member is a curious unbeliever who is asking questions about what the members of your family believe.