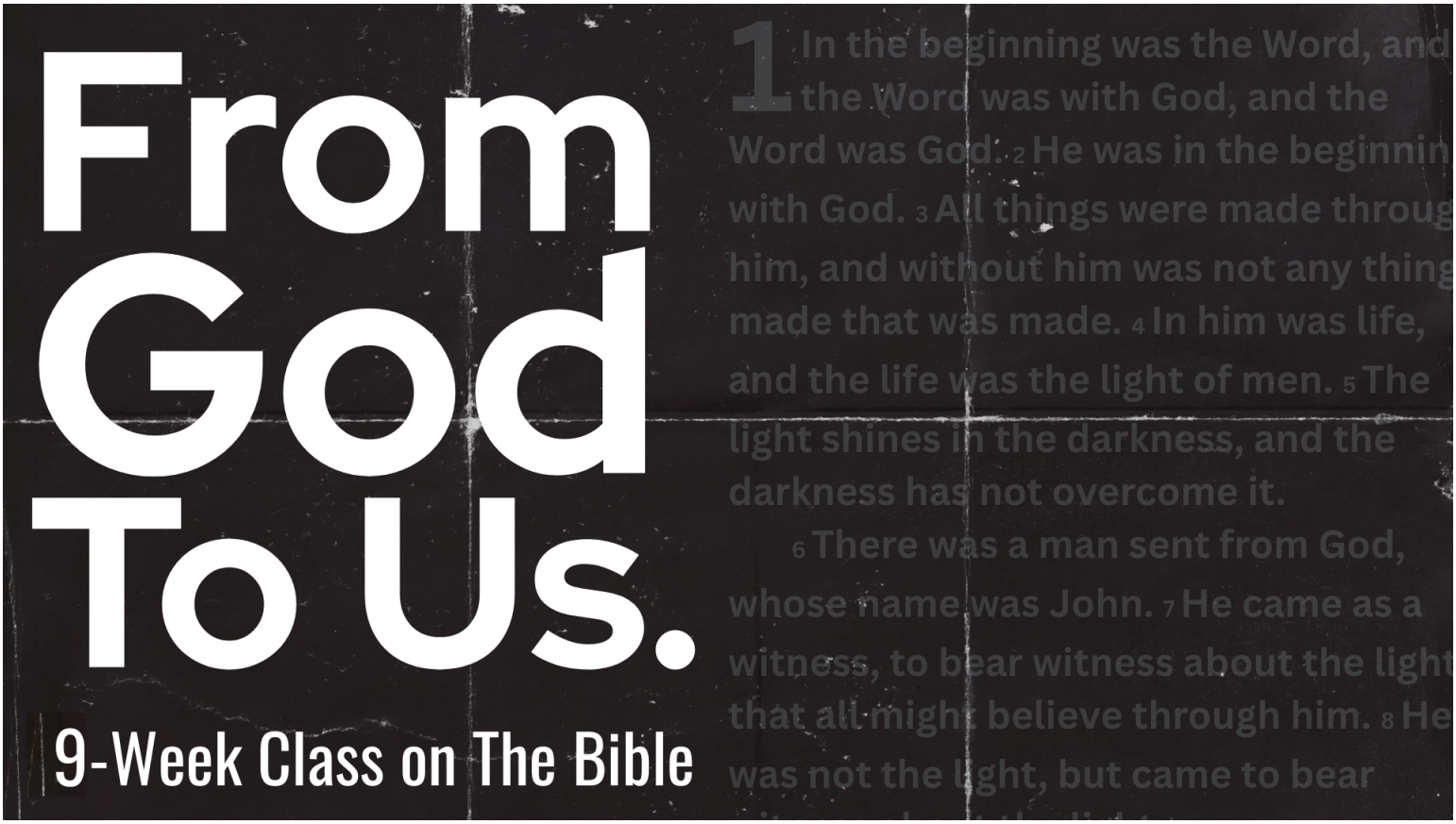

Week 1: The Nature of the Holy Bible
Week 2: How Do We Study the Bible: Receive
Week 3: How Do We Study the Bible: Read
Week 4: How Do We Study the Bible: Research
Week 5: How Do We Study the Bible: Reason
Week 6: How Do We Study the Bible: Relate
Week 7: How Do We Study the Bible: Respond
Week 8: How Do We Study the Bible: Review
Week 9: How Do We Study the Bible: Relay

Week 1: The Nature of the Holy Bible *Handout*

The purpose of this class is to learn how to study our Bibles more intentionally and relationally–not merely analytically.

1. What Is the Bible?

- The Bible is a collection of _____ books divided into two major sections:
  - **Old Testament:** _____ books, written primarily in _____, with some Aramaic.
  - **New Testament:** _____ books, written in _____.
- **What makes the Bible different?**
  - **2 Timothy 3:16–17**, "All Scripture is _____ out by God…"
  - **2 Peter 1:21**, "Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the _____ _____."
  - The Bible was _____ by God and written down by _____.
  - This is the doctrine of **_____**.

Why does that matter?

- **God chose to communicate his Word through human authors using human language.**
  - **Therefore: Words matter. _____ matters. Historical _____ matters. The author's _____ matters.**

2. How Did We Get Our Bible?

A very simplified timeline:

Hebrew & Aramaic Old Testament
↓
Translated into _____ – the **Septuagint**
↓
Greek New Testament – copied and circulated throughout the early church
↓
Around AD 405: Jerome's Latin _____
↓
John Wycliffe translates Scripture into _____ from the Latin Vulgate
↓
William _____ returns to the Hebrew and Greek and translates Scripture into common English

3. Why These Books and Not Those?

- The collection of books recognized as Scripture is called the biblical _____.
- The canon wasn't created in one meeting. The early church **_____** books that were already being received as authoritative Scripture.
- Several characteristics mattered in recognizing New Testament Scripture:
  - Apostolic _____
  - _____ acceptance
  - _____ with apostolic teaching
  - Divine _____
- By AD _____, Athanasius listed the same _____ New Testament books we have today.
- **The church did not CREATE the canon; it _____ the books God had inspired.**

Is the canon still open?

- We believe the canon of Scripture is _____.

Protestant & Catholic Bibles

- Catholic Bibles contain additional books commonly called the **Deuterocanonical Books** or the _____.

This raises an important question:

- **Does the church have authority over Scripture, or does _____ have authority over the church?**
- As Protestants, we believe the church stands under the authority of God's Word.
- The church recognizes Scripture; it does not _____ Scripture.

4. Which Translation Is Which?

- Every English Bible is a _____.
- English translations generally exist along a spectrum:

MORE _____ ←----------→ MORE _____

Neither approach automatically equals _____.

Philippians 2:1-18 (ESV)

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.