

How to use the Bible



A Sample Lesson From: **Pure GOLD**

Level 1

GOLD



In Partnership with

A flexible open learning course from
the **Group-based Open Learning Discipleship Project**

This course is offered in partnership with SEAN UK and with permission of SEAN International. This course can also be obtained from SEAN UK. For further details see www.sean.uk.net

Copyright © SEAN International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without written permission from SEAN International (contact details above).

SEAN UK is a UK Registered Charity (No 1102491)

SEAN International is a UK Registered Charity (No. 286965).

Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973,1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

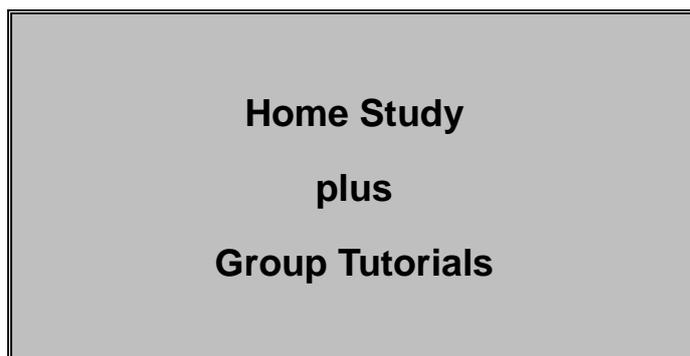
Published by:

GOLD Project, Stockton House, Stockton Avenue, Fleet, Hants, GU51 4NS
www.goldproject.org

Introduction

This course, Pure GOLD, gives grounding in an overall knowledge and understanding of all the books of the Bible and how they fit together to give us a wonderful picture of God's plan for humanity. It is ideal for new Christians after finishing the "Abundant Life" course.

Our GOLD Project courses are designed to help you learn by means of:



Home Study

Each course is made up of **lessons** that you need to complete on your own at home. These lessons require you to read and interact with the course material as well as with your Bible.

Each lesson is **programmed** to help you check your progress as you work through. To get the maximum benefit it is important that you use the course in the way it was intended:

1. Read section 1 (often referred to by the technical term 'frame' 1).
2. Make the response required, if there is one.
3. Check that your answer corresponds with the feedback given in the 'feedback' section at the end. (Wherever feedback is given, it is marked with a raven).
4. Proceed to section 2.

Note that the **course** is programmed—**you** are **not** being programmed! 

The aim of programming is that:

1. you can check frequently that you have understood the material

Pure GOLD (Sample Lesson)

presented;

2. you are stimulated to active and critical thinking;
3. you reinforce what you learn and are better able to remember it.

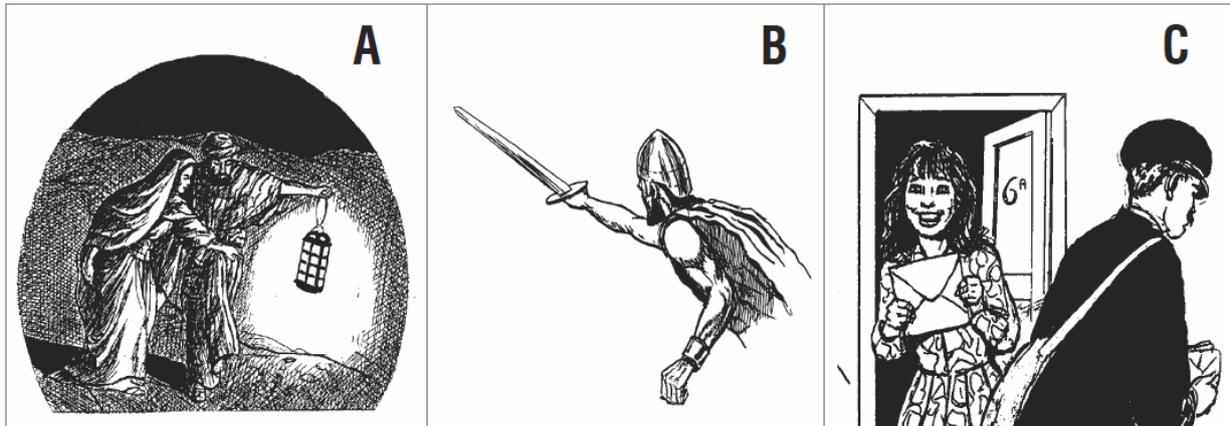
At the end of each lesson, we encourage you to spend some time in reflection on how what you have learnt applies to you in the situation where God has placed you.

Group Meeting

Regular group meetings take place where you will have the opportunity to discuss points of interest that have arisen and think through with others how your learning may be applied. The group tutorials give the opportunity for you to clarify ideas and to share your own thoughts and to listen to the ideas of others. The process of learning from the Bible in a group is an essential part of the programme. It is here that you are able to think through areas of application and to pray and support each other in your studies.

How to Use the Bible

Lesson 1B



1. In the last lesson we looked at three examples, which show us what God's word is like and how important the Bible should be in our lives. What were they?

a) Gold b) Honey c) Milk



2. In this lesson we will learn about three more examples, as shown in the pictures above. These all show us how we can use the Bible and benefit from it. Let's see the first example:

In Bible times they had no street lighting or electricity. So imagine what it would have been like to be out in the fields on a moonless night. See **Picture A** above.

What would such a person need, to help them find their way?



3. In this dark world, where we are surrounded by sin and even our consciences are darkened, we too need a light to guide us. Psalm 119:105 tells us what this light is:

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

What is compared to a light? _____



4. So the first way we can use the Bible is as a light to guide our steps. Just as a light helps us walk on the path at night, so the Bible helps us walk on God’s path in this dark world. It keeps us out of danger and guides us to our home in heaven.

a) Write out Psalm 119:105 and memorise it.

“Your word _____”

b) How should we use the Bible? As a _____ to _____ us.



5. Out in the fields of Palestine, the paths were often very narrow. If someone turned off to the right they could slip into a ditch; to the left might lie a snake. The light helped them to keep to the path and not stray to the right or to the left.

Joshua was a great leader of Israel. God’s advice to him was this:

“Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7)

What did Joshua have to do to be successful? _____

6. The next verse in Joshua explains how we can use the Bible like a light.

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.”

(Joshua 1:8)

To receive light from the Bible, what two important things should we do?

a) “_____ on it day and night.”

b) “So that you may be careful to _____ everything written in it.”



7. What two things should we do to receive light from the Bible?

a) _____

b) _____



8. Do you meditate on God’s word? This means to read it often, to think about its meaning and to let it dwell in your mind.

“Let the message (word) of Christ dwell among you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

Which of these Christians, Jean or Monica, will receive more light from God’s word? _____



I don't often read the Bible. But in times of trouble I open a page at random and expect God to guide me through the first verse that my eye falls on.

Jean



Monica



I often read the Bible and meditate on its meaning. This shows me God's will for my daily life. Then in times of trouble I know what to do.

9. We should not only meditate on God's word, but act on it.

Imagine you were an Israelite walking in the fields at night. All is dark. You have to walk a mile to reach your village. But the lamp in your hand is so dim that it will only show you the path up to three steps ahead. So how can you reach home safely?

10. A lamp does not show the whole path at once. First you have to step forward in such light as you have. Then you will receive further light for the next few steps, until at last you reach home.

To what can a lamp be compared? _____

11. Just like the lamp, God's word will not show us the whole path of our lives at once. God shows us a few steps at a time. He wants us to act on what

Pure GOLD (Sample Lesson)

we learn, and step out as far as we can see. Then we receive light for the next few steps along our spiritual path.

Which of these Christians, Rob or John, will make more spiritual progress?



O Lord! Show me what job I should be doing in ten years' time, where I will live and whom I will marry.

Rob



John

Lord! I don't know what you want from me in the future, but for today you have told me to serve my family better. Help me to act on that.

15. In peacetime, people don't need swords. But, according to the Bible, each and every Christian is involved in a fierce spiritual battle. We have an enemy – Satan. We cannot fight him with material weapons such as a rifle. But God has put into our hand a spiritual weapon, his word. For what should we use it?



16. People use God's word in various ways to try to defeat the devil, and protect themselves from evil spirits. Some place the Bible under their pillow at night. Others write verses as charms and tie them round their arms or neck. Some recite Psalm 91 ninety-nine times for protection.

Pure GOLD (Sample Lesson)

Do you think that these are good ways to use the Bible as a sword? Write your own opinion here and get ready to discuss the idea in the Group Meeting.



17. Actually, we should never trust in such superstitions because neither the words themselves, nor the paper and ink with which they were written, have any value in themselves. We trust in God who spoke the words. He alone is our protector.

Should we fight the devil with material weapons or with spiritual ones?



18. Jesus himself has given us a good pattern of how to use God's word as a sword. Once, after forty days in the desert, hungry and alone, he had to do battle with Satan.

First, Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread. Jesus replied by quoting from the Bible: *"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

How did Jesus defeat Satan? (tick one)

- a. By speaking from his own authority.
 - b. By quoting from God's word.
 - c. By striking him with a bronze sword.
- 

19. Next, the devil tried to tempt Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple.

But Jesus replied, *“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

How did Jesus know it would be wrong to test God in this way?

- a. Because it was written in God’s word.
- b. Because he had been taught it by a teacher.
- c. Because he knew everything anyway.



20. Once more the devil tempted Jesus by offering him fame and authority.

Jesus answered, *“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*

Once again, Jesus defeated Satan with the same words. What were these?



21. Fill in the words Jesus used in all three of his replies to Satan.

a) “_____ *‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’*”

b) “_____ *‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’*”

c) “_____ *‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’*”

 **Note:** This story is recorded in Matthew 4:1–11.



22. All three times Jesus defeated Satan with verses from the Bible. Why were these verses so effective?

- a. Because they were hung around Jesus' neck as charms.
- b. Because they were written above the doorway in Jesus' home.
- c. Because they were memorised in Jesus' mind.



23. Satan's temptations enter through our minds; not through the doorway of our house or through our bodies. So it is important that we store up God's word in our minds, not on our bodies. Then we can use it as a sword when the devil tempts us.

Below are some temptations that the devil may put in your mind.

a) It won't matter if I tell a little lie. No one will know, and I can get what I want that way.

b) I'm going to get revenge on that guy for what he did to me.

c) I can't wait to tell all my friends that Karen is pregnant and that's why she's dropped out of school.

d) My kids are driving me crazy. I feel like slapping them in the face.

In this column are some verses from the Bible we could use to defeat Satan.

A. *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger."* (Ephesians 4:31)

B. *"Do not lie. Do not deceive one another."* (Leviticus 19:11)

C. *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Leviticus 19:18)

D. *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil."* (Romans 12:17)

Which verse (on the right) would you use to defeat each temptation (on the left)?

a) Letter ____; b) Letter ____; c) Letter ____; d) Letter ____.



24. So far we have looked at two ways we can use the Bible.

a) First, as a _____ to _____.

b) Second, as a _____ to _____.



25. Thirdly, we can read the Bible as a letter from God, which shows us his love.

Perhaps some dear friend or member of your family is working far away.

You long to hear news from them. See **Picture C** on the Title Page.

What is God's letter to us? _____



26. The Bible is like a letter written by God to you and me. In it he shows us his character, what he likes and dislikes, and instructs us how to live. But more than anything, through this "letter" he assures us of his great, marvellous love for us. If your mother wrote you a letter, how would she sign it at the end?

- a. "Yours respectfully."
- b. "With best wishes."
- c. "With lots of love."
- d. "Your's sincerely."



27. Of course, your mother would write “with lots of love”. Even though she is far away, when you read her letter you can feel her close by and your heart is warmed. Her letter makes her presence and her love real to you.

a) What have we said is like a letter from God to us? _____

b) What does it show to us? _____



28. Suppose you have been waiting for a letter to arrive from your mother. At last the postman brings one, and you recognise your mother’s handwriting. What do you do?

a. Put it aside to read next week.

b. Stop whatever you are doing to open it as soon as possible.

c. Give it back to the postman.



29. How strange it is that we are often so slow and lazy to read God’s letter to us! It contains many assurances of his love for us. He tells us in the letter:

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

“Though she (a mother) may forget (her child), I will not forget you!”

(Isaiah 49:15)

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Now read these verses again, inserting your own name in each sentence.

That shows you how much God loves you, especially you.

Pure GOLD (Sample Lesson)

Does this help you to feel God's love more personally? Be ready to share this in the Group Meeting.

 Now read on.

30. So if you want to know how much God loves you, what should you do?

31. What is the third way we can use the Bible?

As a I _____ which s _____ us God's I _____.

32. What are three ways we may use the Bible?

a) As a _____ to _____.

b) As a _____ to _____.

c) As a _____ which _____.

33. Now do the Test at the back of this booklet.

Feedback to Lesson 1b



1. a) Gold
b) Honey
c) Milk
2. A light or lamp
3. God's word (the Bible)
4. a) See Frame 3
b) light/ guide
5. Obey God's law (word)
6. a) Meditate
b) do (obey)
7. a) Meditate on it
b) Obey it
8. Monica
9. A step at a time in the light
10. The word of God
11. John
12. a) light/ guide
b) meditating/ obeying
13. To a sword
14. c.
15. to defeat Satan
16. Answer in Group
17. Spiritual ones
18. b.
19. a.
20. It is written
21. a) It is written
b) It is written
c) It is written
22. c.
23. a) Letter B.
b) Letter D.
c) Letter C.
23. d) Letter A.
24. a) light/ guide us
b) sword/ defeat Satan
25. his word (the Bible)
26. c.
27. a) God's word (the Bible)
b) God's love for us
28. b.
29. Answers in the Group
30. Read God's word (the Bible)
31. letter/ shows/ love
32. a) light/ guide us
b) sword/ defeat Satan
c) letter/ shows us God's love

LESSON 1B: TEST

1. Write three ways in which we can use the Bible.

a) As a _____ to _____.

b) As a _____ to _____.

c) As a _____ which _____.

2. Write out Psalm 119:105.

Your Group Leader will give you feedback to this Test at your next meeting.

Whatever your educational level or knowledge of the Christian faith, we have courses that can enable you to grow in your faith.

As a group you can choose the level at which you want to study. We will train your group leader how the courses work.

All our courses combine:

- ✓ **Home Study**
using carefully designed workbooks
- ✓ **Group Meetings**
with a trained facilitator
- ✓ **Application**
Activities and opportunities to practice what you are learning

"I believe the Gold courses are quite simply a gift to the church. A format which is easy to follow and yet gradually takes you deeper into the subject, challenging you to think deeply about the Christian faith and helping to develop mature, stable and spiritually strong Christians."

Level 1 Courses

For those who are new to the Christian faith and want an easily accessible form of study.

Level 2 Courses

For those who want to learn what it is to follow Jesus through an in-depth study of his life and ministry.

Level 3 Courses

For those who want to take the study of the Bible further and engage with its meaning for today

For more information, contact:

The GOLD Project
Stockton House
Stockton Avenue, Fleet
Hampshire GU51 4NS
01252 614323
info@goldproject.org
www.goldproject.org

<https://twitter.com/GOLDiscipleship>
<https://www.facebook.com/groupbasedopenlearningdiscipleship/>

The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship (GOLD) Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England, registered charity no. 1166567

Learning churches...growing churches