

Unit 5.1: How and Why do Christians read the Bible?

Key Questions:

How and why is the Bible used?
 Do you need a Bible to be a Christian?
 Why is the Bible holy?
 Why is the Bible a best seller?
 Why are there so many versions of the Bible?

Key Vocabulary:

Gospel: Good news about salvation from sin; The message of Jesus: his birth, death and resurrection'

New Testament: The books of the Bible produced by the early Church: The Gospels, Acts and the general letters.

Old Testament: The first part of the Bible; Contains the Law and the Prophets.

Translation: A book or words changed from one language into another.

Word of God: The Bible; A name for Jesus.

Key Bible Verses:

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Proverbs 30:5:

"Every word of God is flawless; he is a **shield** to those who take refuge in him."

Isaiah 40:8:

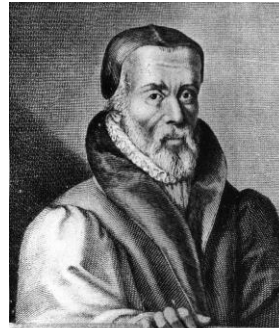
"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."

Psalms 119:105:

"Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path."

Hebrews 4:12:

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."



William Tyndale (1484 - 1536)

Translated the Bible into English.

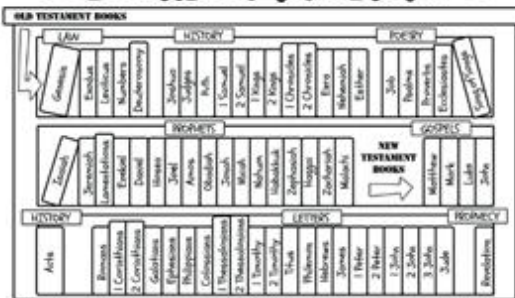
He was prosecuted and executed as a result.

Two years after Tyndale's death, Henry VIII authorized the use of the Great Bible for the Church of England - this was largely Tyndale's work.

Values:

Faith
 Truth
 Wisdom

Books of the Bible



Hinduism does not have one Holy Book, but several.

Shruti: That which is heard; composed of 4 **Vedas**, created by the god Brahma.

Rig Veda: deities;

Yajur Veda: rituals;

Sama Veda: Songs;

Smirti: That which is remembered.

Dharmashastras: how to live life as a Hindu;

Puranas: myths and legends relating to the deities.

Hinduism - Holy Books

Smirti

Mahabharata

This is the longest known poem ever written. It is an epic story about the Kurukshetra War for the throne of the Hastinapura Kingdom. One part of this, called the Bhagavad Gita, contains Krishna's teachings to one of the princes, which explains the different ideas in Hinduism contained in the Vedas. The Bhagavad Gita is seen as a concise guide to Hindu philosophy and a practical guide to life.

Ramayana

This is the story of Rama and Sita (which is celebrated during Dussehra). It was also written as a poem. Rama is seen as an example of dharma - the 'right way to live one's life'.

