

Purpose

- To review information about the Old Testament.
- To review some of the things covered last year.

Materials

- Handouts
- Bibles

Background Material**OLD TESTAMENT**

LAW -- The first five books of the Bible are the foundation on which the whole Bible rests. Every major theme has its beginning in one of these books. The books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) are called the Pentateuch. This is a combination of two Greek words meaning “five” and “scrolls”. This is commonly called “Book of the Law”. The Jews call it the *TORAH*. This means instructions or teachings. Within the Torah God’s teaches how human life began and how the nation of Israel began. Most of the Pentateuch is a story told about God’s people. These books are easy to read and understand. As you read you will learn a lot about God and how he works in our world. People usually believe that Moses wrote these books.

HISTORY -- The Bible’s story is a true story. It is accurate, a reliable record of real events and real people. These 12 books are the books of history. It may seem dry but try to think of the people and what was happening to them. These are not just stories pieced together but about real people who lived long ago. These books are Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1& 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

POETRY -- The next five books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs) start with the story of Job with the trials and tribulations Job faces and moves onto worship and praise for God and his goodness. These also show the need and rewards for wisdom. Wisdom being the ability to live skillfully. These do seem like very old-fashioned ideas, but they still are correct and good for us today. The last book (Song of Songs) is a love story.

MAJOR 7 MINOR PROPHETS – The last 17 books of the O.T. are about and named for 17 of the prophets that worked for God before Jesus was born. Five are considered major prophets; the last twelve are called minor prophets. The distinction of major and minor has nothing to do with the importance of the writers; it reflects upon the length of their writing. These OT prophets changed people’s lives. Unfortunately, most of us don’t know much about these men and women. We should not be put off by their weird visions or their harsh words, but read their words and learn from their misfortunes.

PROCEDURE

- Read over background Material.
- Do 41-1. Call me if you need help.
- Do Handout 40-2, 40-3 and 40-4. Send them to me.