

# The Bible - God’s Message of Love

**Speaker & Length** Spiritual Director, 10 minutes

**Progression** This meditation follows the ‘GOD – A COMMUNITY OF LOVE’ talk and continues the theme of Palanca with the Bible being Palanca from God.

**Purpose** To introduce the spiritual dimensions of the VN weekend. Our ideal is to live our life under God, lived by the power of the Spirit, in Jesus Christ. We see the ultimate expression of that ideal in the person and work of Jesus whom we see and experience in His Word—the Scripture; the Bible.

## Introduction

Our ideal in life is life under God, lived by the power of the Spirit, in Jesus Christ. We see the ultimate expression of that ideal in the person and work of Jesus whom we see and experience in His Word, the Scripture, the Bible.

What better ideal for our life than to live in imitation of Jesus? "Whoever says that he remains in union with God should live as Jesus Christ did." (1 John 2:6) "If ye abide in Me and My Words abide in you ask what ye will and it shall be done." (John 15:7)

## I. In The Bible God Presents To Us...

A. The person of Christ, our ideal.

B. The story of God's love for his people throughout time.

(Use the following points as a guide to present the overview of the Bible as a flowing story. NOTE: The Bible references are included here for your benefit and NEED NOT BE READ ALOUD during the talk.)

1. God gave man a promise of salvation through the family of Abraham (Genesis 2:1-3).
2. God delivered his people from bondage/slavery (Moses) and gave them life (Exodus 20:1-3).
3. God's care for his people was shown in the message of the words of the many prophets (i.e. Isaiah 43:1,2).
4. God revealed Himself and recognized His people's joys and sorrows as shown in the Psalms (Psalm 66:16-19).
5. God's salvation achieved through Jesus' death and resurrection, and crowned by His ascension to heavenly rule (Galatians 4:4-7).
6. The spread of this story of life and salvation through the apostles (Romans 10:14-17).
7. The concern and guidance of God for His new church provided through the letters of Paul, Peter and John (Ephesians 2:17-22).
8. The view and revelation of the climax of our salvation (Revelation 21:1-7).

## **II. The Bible: A Book For Today**

- A. The story of God's love and salvation for you.  
(This may be personalized through selected passages expressing your faith.)
- B. The love letters of God to you.
- C. We cherish and reread letters from friends:
  - 1. To learn news of what they are doing.
  - 2. To maintain our friendship and communication.
- D. So too with God's love letters to us; we pour over his letters:
  - 1. To learn news of what He is doing.
  - 2. To discover how we can respond in love and thankfulness.

## **III. Our Use Of God's Word**

- A. Reverence - it is a gift and a revelation from God.
- B. Spiritual Strength - we use it as a spiritual reading to strengthen us.
  - 1. Use it often. Perhaps set it handy next to your bed or on your desk
  - 2. Think about what you read. Try to get one main point about God's love out of the reading
  - 3. Pray over what you read.
  - 4. Reflect on the Gospel meaning, the Good News message. Let it grow in you.  
His word (Good News) is here to...
    - a) save us from sin and damnation through faith in Jesus Christ.
    - b) educate and reveal to His children true life and holiness.
    - c) magnify His glory.
- C. We use God's word to hear, read, meditate on, follow in our lives, accept, believe and to share.
- D. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words that give eternal life." (John 6:68).
- E. Your personal copy. (At the conclusion of your talk, Bibles will be distributed to each person in the conference room.)