

F A Q 'S

Frequently Asked Questions

We hope that this series of informational brochures about the Almont Vineyard Church enriches your knowledge about us and deepens your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Almont Vineyard® Church

3835 Van Dyke
Almont, MI
48003

Tel: (810) 673-3040



info@almontvineyardchurch.org
www.almontvineyardchurch.org

It's not what you've done in the past, but what you're going to do in the future.

F A Q 'S

What does Almont Vineyard
believe about
the Bible?

What about the bible?

- ⌘ The bible is a collection of 66 books. The word bible comes from the Greek word for books. Scripture, another word used for the bible, means the writings.
- ⌘ The bible was written by more than 40 different authors over a period of about 1600 years. Some well-known bible authors include Moses, David, Solomon, and the Apostles Peter, Paul and John.
- ⌘ The bible is divided into the Old and the New Testaments. Testament is another word for covenant, which is a contract. The Old Testament is about God's special covenant with the Jewish people and the New Testament is about God's new covenant based on the person and works of Jesus Christ.
- ⌘ The Old Testament books were written between 1400 BC and 430 BC. These books were compiled into a collection called the canon (from Greek kanan: rule; standard of measure) about 300 years before the birth of Christ. Canon refers to writings that are authoritative for faith and religious practice by virtue of their divine inspiration.
- ⌘ The New Testament was written between 40 AD and 90 AD. The early church recognized these writings but they were not collected into an official canon until the 4th century.
- ⌘ The bible is not arranged in chronological order. The various books are grouped instead by the type of writing they are-law, history or poetry, for example.

... the Bible was written by men, inspired by God.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "all scripture is inspired by God." By saying "inspired," he didn't mean that the bible is inspiring to read, or that the authors were "inspired" in the same way a composer is inspired to write a piece of music. The word in Greek literally means "out-breathed" and conveys the idea that the writing of the bible was intimately directed by the Holy Spirit. This is why Christians often call the bible the Word of God. At the same time, real historical figures at specific times in history wrote the various books of the bible. The bible is both natural and supernatural-the product of both human and divine activity.

...the Bible is revelation.

God has made Himself known to men and women through revelation such as the wonder and beauty of creation, the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the pages of the bible. What this means is that the truth contained in the bible was not arrived at merely through human effort, study, research or contemplation. God had to reveal it to the bible authors. Without revelation, it would be impossible to truly know God.

...the Bible is trustworthy.

There is overwhelming historical evidence supporting the bible's reliability and trustworthiness, particularly when it is compared with other ancient documents. What was originally written down was preserved and accurately passed on over time. Advances in archaeology have repeatedly corroborated the bible's record of history, further pointing to its reliability.

...the Bible is authoritative.

The bible is more than just a book of good ideas and helpful hints. It is the Word of God, and since God is both Creator and King, what He says has authority. The bible has authority over Christians in the same way a highway patrolman has authority over us as drivers. In the Vineyard, we look to the bible as the final authority for what we should believe (doctrine) and how we should live (practice). At the Almont Vineyard there is no person or tradition of equal or greater authority than the bible.

...why should I read the Bible every day?

The bible is God's word-He is the author. By reading the bible, you will learn more about Him-what He has done for you and His plan for your life. You will also find comfort during difficult times and answers for your problems. In order to grow and mature spiritually as a Christian, you should practice daily bible reading.

Jesus answered, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

...how do I get started?

- ⌘ Get yourself an easy to read translation of the bible, we recommend the New International Version (NIV). Please let us know if you need a bible.
- ⌘ A good place to start is in the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are the first four books of the New Testament and tell the story of the life of Jesus Christ.
- ⌘ Start out reading just a chapter or two every day; whatever is manageable for you.
- ⌘ Eventually, get a bible reading plan to follow that will take you through the bible in a year.
- ⌘ Consider investing in a study bible which includes helpful background information and study guides that will increase your understanding of what you read.

Please contact the Almont Vineyard if you have any other questions or concerns about the Bible.

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