

### Bible Study Sheet – Week 3

During the \_\_\_\_\_ Ages, the Vulgate Bible, written in \_\_\_\_\_, the common language of Rome, was the only one used in \_\_\_\_\_. When the Roman Empire began to fall and break apart, Latin, NO LONGER was the only language spoken or even understood by the people.

For some \_\_\_\_\_ years, the Bible was ONLY in the hands of church leaders and monks – NOT the common people. So, medieval Christians depended on their knowledge of the Bible stories on what they could \_\_\_\_\_ – with their eyes – in the local church. So, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ became very important. This is the time period when \_\_\_\_\_, and the art of painting and \_\_\_\_\_ were used to decorate churches – because they were IMPORTANT in teaching people the basic stories of their faith.

\_\_\_\_\_ plays also came into being. The church would offer dramatic readings and \_\_\_\_\_ would perform them. These \_\_\_\_\_ plays eventually moved outdoors, onto the church steps and in public places as a means of \_\_\_\_\_ and sharing God’s Good News with those who may have never heard.

Because it took scribes and \_\_\_\_\_ SO LONG to copy a manuscript by hand, very few Bibles were available, SO – they were VERY, very precious. The monks who made them their life’s work took great pains to make them as beautiful as possible. They even took to \_\_\_\_\_ the pages with fancy lettering and illuminating them with \_\_\_\_\_ !!

Fast forward to the 1300’s when a man by the name of John \_\_\_\_\_, an Oxford theologian, and a priest that that the Catholic Church had dubbed a “renegade \_\_\_\_\_” commissioned two scholars to translate the entire Bible into English. Why did he think this was necessary?

Interesting, is that at the same time, the Black Death or \_\_\_\_\_ hit. Between 1348 and 1350, this devastating pandemic led to almost \_\_\_\_\_ million people dying, or between a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ of Europe's population! The pandemic was indiscriminatory – it killed rich and poor, nobles and peasants, priests, monks, and ordinary people.

With so much death and devastation around them, people had a sudden desire to read the Bible for themselves. Because they didn't have access to a Bible nor could they understand \_\_\_\_\_, should they be able to get their hands on a copy – they were STILL dependent on people like \_\_\_\_\_ to translate it for them, in their mother tongue – \_\_\_\_\_. Besides that, people no longer wanted to hear it “second-hand” from a church.

Wycliffe's Bible was completed in \_\_\_\_\_. That same year, Wycliffe died of a \_\_\_\_\_. What did the Church do to Wycliffe's corpse and why?

John Wycliffe died a \_\_\_\_\_. He died believing in the Bible, determined that everyone should have access to it, and be able to read the Bible for themselves in a language they understood!

Another priest by the name of Jan \_\_\_\_\_, noticed too, the differences between what the Bible taught and what the Roman Catholic church practiced. Reading the writings of John Wycliffe also influenced him to preach against a practice called the “selling of indulgences” (a practice we will talk more about in our Monday night study). To make a longer story, short, the church commanded that Hus appear before religious officials and recant his teachings. When Hus refused, he was \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Later, another English priest, by the name of William \_\_\_\_\_, set out to make a *new* English translation. The church harassed him to the point, he had to move to Germany to finish his work on the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament. Copies that were smuggled out of Germany and into England, were ordered \_\_\_\_\_ by King Henry VII. A short while later, while working on the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament translation, Tyndale was \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, while \_\_\_\_\_ the stake and then his \_\_\_\_\_ body was \_\_\_\_\_.

The list goes on and on. Needless to say, that neither burning books nor killing

the translators could stop the movement that brought the Bible to ordinary people in their own language – nor could the cruelty of the church stop the outcry from people within and outside the church to “reform” their practices and teachings – most especially the belief that the pope was supreme. There was a growing rejection against the idea that the pope held ultimate power, and instead a movement for an emphasis on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ believers!

One of the loudest voices against \_\_\_\_\_ authority and for church reform was a Roman Catholic priest by the name of \_\_\_\_\_. He created a list of \_\_\_\_\_ church practices - \_\_\_\_\_ criticisms - that he declared went against Biblical teaching – \_\_\_\_\_ thesis that he nailed to the door of the church where he was serving – Wittenberg’s \_\_\_\_\_ Church!

This of course, led to him being \_\_\_\_\_ by the Pope. \_\_\_\_\_, like Jan Hus, before him, was ordered to appear before the religious leaders that he might recant his views. This “appearing” was really an effort by the church to \_\_\_\_\_ him, declare him a \_\_\_\_\_, and then, \_\_\_\_\_ him as a \_\_\_\_\_. Miraculously \_\_\_\_\_ escaped and the movement to “reform” the Catholic Church continued. It was out of this movement and the Catholic Church’s refusal to “reform” that the \_\_\_\_\_ Reformation was born.

With the advent of the printing press, along with the passion of Christian missionaries, traders, and world explorers – the Bible was carried to lands far and wide. Bible \_\_\_\_\_ formed with the purpose of providing a Bible for as many people as possible, in their own \_\_\_\_\_, AND at a \_\_\_\_\_ they could \_\_\_\_\_.