He Gave Us Scripture  
Study Guide 5.1  
Lesson 5: The Complexity of Meaning  
Section 1: Literal Sense  
  
  
OUTLINE FOR TAKING NOTES  
  
Introduction  
  
I. Literal Sense  
  
A. Multiple Meanings  
  
B. Singular Meaning  
  
    
REVIEW QUESTIONS  
  
5.1.1 According to the lesson, does a biblical passage have more than one meaning?   
  
5.1.2 How does the lesson understand the "literal sense" (sensus literalis) of a biblical passage?   
  
5.1.3 What is the "allegorical approach" to interpreting Scripture?   
  
5.1.4 The origin of the "allegorical approach" to interpreting Scripture is often traced to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.   
  
5.1.5 Philo of Alexandria viewed the Hebrew Scriptures as allegories that revealed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.   
  
5.1.6 Early Christians were influenced by the allegorical method of interpretation especially through what school?   
  
5.1.7 One of the most famous early Christian teachers who was heavily influenced by the allegorical method of interpretation of Scripture, and who lived from 185 to 254 A.D., was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.   
  
5.1.8 Origen divided the meaning of Scripture into two categories: the literal sense and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sense.  
  
5.1.9 What school of Greek philosophy had a heavy influence on early Christian methods of interpreting Scripture, leading them toward the allegorical approach?   
  
5.1.10 According to the lesson, what concept from some Greek philosophers influenced early Christian methods of biblical interpretation?   
  
5.1.11 What was a "Quadriga" in the early roman society?   
  
5.1.12 How was the term "Quadriga" used with regard to biblical interpretation?   
  
5.1.13 According to Bernard of Clairvaux, when the Song of Solomon speaks of the "beams" and the "rafters" of a house (1:17), these are both symbols referring to \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ respectively.   
  
5.1.14 What did Martin Luther and John Calvin think about the allegorical method of interpreting Scripture?  
  
5.1.15 What did Thomas Aquinas teach about the relationship between the literal meaning of Scripture and the spiritual meanings?  
  
5.1.16 During the medieval period, what did the church authorities assert about their ability to gain insights into spiritual meanings of Scripture that had no connection to the literal meaning?  
  
5.1.17 What change in scholarly study during the Renaissance caused a dramatic shift in the interpretation of Scripture?   
  
5.1.18 During the Renaissance, Protestants argued that Scripture's literal sense, or original meaning, is both singular and \_\_\_\_\_\_.   
  
5.1.19 What illustration best expresses the Protestant view of the meaning of Scripture during the Renaissance?   
  
  
APPLICATION QUESTIONS  
  
1. Before studying this lesson, did you believe that a Bible passage has more than one meaning? What do you think now? How does this change the way you study a passage?  
  
2. Do you agree with the allegorical method of interpreting Scripture? Why or why not?  
  
3. Before studying this lesson, did you believe that there are multiple facets to the meaning of a Bible passage? What do you think now? How does this change the way you study a passage?  
  
4. What practical suggestions do you have to avoid misunderstanding a Bible passage?