



SPM Bible Knowledge



Students' Testimonies
2004 - 2018

YEAR 2004

1 Tee Shern Ren scored 14 A's in the 2004 SPM exam including an A1 in BK. He studied at SMK Damansara Jaya. He was offered 2 prestigious scholarships. He taught BK in church after his SPM. He taught Physics in MCKL. He is now in the PhD program in NUS.

Q: Why did you decide to take BK?

Reasons... I was first exposed to BK at the National Quiz '02 when I was in Form 2. My CF seniors were active with BK and so I followed in their footsteps. And it helped that I would get an extra A1 for SPM! But as a BK student I'm glad that we have the chance to be very openly Christian. I think that we are really blessed to be able to study the Bible for our SPM. To me it is a privilege to study God's word and to be tested on it.

Q: Share with us some things God showed you in your study.

I'm very challenged by the example of the church in Acts, and I really love the incident in Thessalonica (Acts 17) where Paul and his friends were described as the people who have "turned the world upside down!" Empowered by the Holy Spirit wherever they went, they left their mark. They preached boldly about Jesus who had come. When something good happens to you, you naturally tell everyone you see, and I believe that it was the same for them. Sometimes we do not let the Holy Spirit work in us. We can underestimate God! What Acts has taught me is that God is a big God and He wants to do big things with us, if we have faith in Him

Q: Words of encouragement for your juniors?

I would encourage you all to work hard at BK. You will forget everything else you learn in your SPM. When you go

on to A-Levels, or ADP, or STPM or any pre-U course, you will learn everything else in more detail. You will learn more Maths, more Chemistry, more Physics, etc. But chances are that unless you go to seminary, you won't learn more BK. So now is a good chance for you to deeply appreciate God's word and to learn how to study the Bible in-depth. You can also take the study skills you learnt in Luke and Acts and apply them to the rest of the Bible and as a result you can grow in God's word.

Also, you should remember that with BK, you can talk to the textbooks' Author any time, anywhere! The most important part of BK is asking the Holy Spirit to teach you. That way you won't just gain head knowledge, you will also build a strong character to handle life.

YEAR 2005

2 *Rachelle Low Swee Lynn, SPM 2005*

"I started taking BK classes when I was in Form 1 in Labuan. My experience over that period of time was reinvigorating and my understanding of the Gospel of Luke and Acts grew exponentially. The impact that knowledge had not only influenced the way I saw the Word of God, it also impacted the way I lived my life, my school grades, and the path it took me upon completion of my secondary school studies.

Through my BK teacher's guidance and dedication, getting an A+ on SPM for BK did not just end there. I was able to contribute and eventually lead multiple Bible studies throughout my university years in Canada. Today, seven years later, I am a Campus Staff Minister at a Canadian university, teaching and equipping students to have a strong foundation in the Word of God."

For those who think BK is a difficult subject, please think again.

YEAR 2006

3 *Timothy Cheng who was from Catholic High School, Jalan Gasing took Bible Knowledge for SPM in 2006. He obtained 11A1s, including Bible Knowledge. He studied in Negeri Sembilan Matriculation College, Kuala Pilah. He will graduate soon from Medical school in University of Malaya.*

Without hesitation, I would encourage everyone out there to take Bible Knowledge as a SPM subject. Through this subject, I have learnt so many things that I never knew existed before. My eyes were opened and heart was humbled as I realized that there was so much more to God, the Bible and Christianity than this proud mind thought it knew.

As my teacher (Ms Yeo Kim Eng) took us through the lessons faithfully every Thursday night, the gospel of Luke and the Acts of the apostles sprang to life and it was the only tuition class I ever looked forward too. =P It was also the place where I could chew on solid spiritual food (Hebrew 5:12).

From Luke, as I journeyed with him through the land of Palestine, listened to his parables, cried with him in the garden of Gethsemane and rejoiced at his resurrection, I realized how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come down, to be tempted, mocked and to save this stubborn human race. I was able to work out my salvation "with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12) it dawned on me how significant this event was. Before this, it was just Christmas to Easter for me.

From the book of Acts, I learnt about the early church, and the role of the Holy Spirit in its expansion. It gave me a clear picture about evangelism and the work of the Holy

Spirit in the church. The apostle Paul and Peter's boldness to step out and stand out for Christ has encouraged and inspired me to keep the flame burning as I remember how the apostles were persecuted for their work. This was also Paul's hope for all of us, to make evangelism a lifestyle. (Acts 26:29)

To those of you who have chosen to take Bible Knowledge as a subject for SPM, I say to you, you have nothing to lose, but everything to gain. I daresay that it is almost compulsory that every Christian take this subject for SPM for only by lifting the sword can we wield it against the enemy. What you learn in Bible Knowledge will stay with you for the rest of your life. (Matthew 24:35) As you round your last corner into the final sprint towards SPM, let the words of Paul encourage you from Hebrew 12:1.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

All the best and remember, *Soli Deo Gloria!*

YEAR 2007

4 *Lim Wei Zhen, from SMK(P) Sri Aman, was the Head Prefect of her school. She scored 14A1s in her SPM [her extra subjects being Accounts, Economics, Literature in English & of course, Bible Knowledge]. She is currently in Taylor's University College completing her A-Levels, under the Bank Negara Special Award Scholarship. She hopes to study Law in Cambridge University come September 2009.*

My motivation for taking up Bible Knowledge as a subject was to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word & subsequently, my faith. Being from a non-church-going background & having only accepted Christ in Form 3, I was painfully aware of the limitations of my knowledge. For one year, I went about professing my faith with full conviction & enthusiasm; yet, when I was asked questions about the foundations of the Christian faith, I fell short. The answers I came up with were not grounded in the Word. I professed in "Spirit", but due to my lack of Scripture knowledge, I could not profess in "truth".

With this in mind, I decided to undertake the challenge of studying Bible Knowledge. Some people said it would be easy to score an A, some people said it would be hard, but all those were inconsequential. I was there to study God's Word. If I could put in so many hours studying the 10 compulsory subjects, surely, I could afford time for one more, the only subject that would really matter? Surely God deserved that much, in the least?

In my case, I went on to sit for 14 subjects in my SPM. God led me into taking all those subjects; it was never a case of "maybe I shall add one more, maybe I should drop that other one". I believe that was God's plan for me: to study a wide range of subjects which I later found to be

useful to me in the future. & yes, that includes History & Moral!

But really, there is nothing like studying the living Word of God. At the beginning, I treated it like just another subject. As time passed, however, coupled with the fact that I studied Literature in English, I began to read between the lines & ponder the reality as proclaimed in the Bible. I started to understand the enormity of those powerful Words in the Bible that *are* the Truth, breathed upon & inspired by our very own living God. As a result, the Word became very real to me, & many times I felt that God was speaking to me through Scripture.

Studying BK was never a burden. Even with 14 subjects, there was never once that I felt I had too much to handle, & I attribute that entirely to the closer relationship I have with God as a result of taking BK. During the month-long SPM examination period, studying BK actually helped me to stay focused & not worry about SPM. Truly, I had never felt as relaxed at any other examination! What I did was to read a few chapters from Luke or Acts each day, as part of my daily devotion. I didn't treat it as revision, but how you would usually treat devotion - I asked God what He was trying to tell me through that particular passage. If anything, it helped reinforce my memory as I could now relate better to those passages.

So it was that throughout the first few weeks of SPM, amidst studying for History, Literature in English, Additional Mathematics, Biology, Economics and the like, I was constantly reminded that all these was futile without God. That the reason why I was doing all these, the reason why I led the life I did, was to glorify God.

I cannot emphasize enough on the benefits of taking BK. It's more than memorizing God's Word; it's about

committing it to memory & hiding it in your heart, to be drawn upon or turned to whenever you are troubled. It's like having an on-the-spot reserve of hope that reminds you of God's promises.

Though it's only two books, studying Luke & Acts serves as a good foundation & introduction to the Salvation of Jesus Christ. Nowadays, whenever the pastor makes a reference to either books, I don't have to turn to the book & start reading the whole passage - which can sometimes make you miss the point he's trying to make as you're too busy reading - because I understand the context in which he is drawing his point from.

As I write this, I am recalling all the memories associated with BK. It goes without saying that I am extremely grateful to all my BK teachers (I had three different teachers throughout my two years of BK study. Long story, that.) & would like to thank them for all their guidance & support. Special thanks goes to Mrs Kua for pushing Amy Wong, the sole other BK crusader in my school, & me to join the National BK Quiz. The National BK Quiz is a simply amazing experience. Really, studying BK is not complete without experiencing it as a full participant. & then there are the memories I built with Amy, like being the only two people in the school hall during our BK paper.

Most importantly, studying BK has piqued my interest in studying the rest of the books in the Bible! While I'm still nowhere close to being halfway through the Bible, it has made me realize the importance of not just reading, but really studying the Word. Now if only Issachar would publish study guides for the other books as well...

To wrap things up, BK is a very interesting subject. Even if you're not a Christian, there's nothing wrong with learning more about other religions. It is always good to expand

one's knowledge in a variety of areas. But my prayer is that though it may seem to be just a story to you, someday, you will realize that it's much more than that - it's the truth.

5 *Remina Doh & Christine Tay studied at SMK Convent Muar. Remina obtained 15A1s and Christine obtained 8A1s, 2A2s and 3B3s in the 2007 SPM.*

After all the toil and hard work put in, we finally achieved the goal we have been aiming for these past two years. Taking BK as one of our SPM subjects has indeed helped us in ways more than one, and more than we may ever know. God can use our young people of today, those who are sensitive to God's voice, sensitive to his calling, to be his powerful agents of transformation effecting change in their respective communities. BK is only one of the tools which can be used in aiding this noble objective, as it trains and equips fresh young minds to be of service in places where they have been stationed. This is especially true for the both of us as being away from home, inevitably we have to rely on ourselves after Him.

Firstly, it is also through BK that our knowledge of God's Word (that in relation to the books of Luke and Acts) has been deepened and we have also been more encouraged to study the Bible on a more frequent and prolonged basis. This in turn strengthens our spiritual walk with Him through consistent two-way communication. And through a relationship based on faith and trust, we learn that our God is a God of the impossible.

Apart from that, we have learnt ways of improving our social relationships with those around us, especially our loved ones. The Word of God offers us sufficient guidance in handling different situations, and teaches us that agape love is **the** way to resolve conflicts. It is also through God's

Word that we assume the role of encouragers and influence others into doing the same.

Besides that, BK has helped reinforce our sense of self-discipline. We realize the importance of managing our time efficiently as being the stewards of time, we are accountable to God for everything we do. Oftentimes this involves our faith being put to test, however we must keep holding steadfast unto His promises. ***The Lord is our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear?***

Moreover, taking BK has impacted the paths leading to our future. It has reminded us to always seek Him first before we step out. Even as we are presently studying in college, we seek Him for his direction in our lives. (Christine plans to do Law and Remina, Medicine for their respective degrees). As the old saying goes, if we fail to plan, we plan to fail. And this proverb could not have been more accurate in itself. God wants us to consult Him first as he knows what's best for us just like the scripture in Jeremiah 29 : 11 - ***"For I have plans to prosper you, and plans not to harm you."*** He wants us to remember that even when everything else fades away, He will still be our ever-reliable pillar of strength. And the best thing is He does not only avail Himself to a selected few, but to everyone who chooses him as Lord and Savior.

Actually even as we look back into the past now, we do miss the times when we sat down and studied BK together. To be honest with you readers, BK is really more than a subject, and it is NOT just another subject. Even at this point, many still might not realize the many long-term benefits it brings to its SPM candidates. One of them is it teaches you a whole lot about life, things that you will never be able to find in our school text books. Quoting Psalms 119:105, ***"For your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path"***.

In conclusion, excelling in BK is actually besides the point, as its value is more than just academic. BK helps us step into the future with confidence, trust and faith in accordance to His will. And this is only possible through the support that we have been always getting from various people. We would like to gladly thank Muar AOG, TCF and MCSC and also of course, our parents for their ever constant support, whether directly or indirectly in our course of taking this subject.

So you guys out there, what do you think? Matthew 24:35 says that "**Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away**". So why not rise up to the challenge of taking BK as an SPM subject and maximize its potential to unleash great change in our nation? We believe that you will never regret after having taken up BK. Instead, you'll be very thankful that you made such a wise decision. After all, you only live life once. As for now, we shall bid you farewell. So long!

YEAR 2008

6 *Tan Siew Chin studied at SMK Seksyen 1 Bandar Kinrara. She obtained 12A1s in the SPM including A1 for BK. She is currently doing the Cambridge A-Levels in Taylor's University College.*

"Firstly, I want to give all honour and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for giving me the opportunity to take Bible Knowledge as a subject in my SPM and for blessing me with an 1A for BK.

I only learnt about Bible Knowledge in Form 3. As I wanted to learn more about this subject offered in SPM, I started attending the BK classes held in my church. I truly enjoyed the time spent on learning God's Word together with a few of my church friends.

In Form 4, I decided to take up BK as a subject for my SPM. To me, it is a commitment that I must take and I did not want to miss the opportunity and the joy of learning God's Word! Furthermore, I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage other Christian students in my school to take up Bible Knowledge as a subject in SPM as I was the first and the only student in my school who took BK as a subject in 2008. Thus, I was determined to do well in this subject. I remembered a day in Form 4 when one of the teachers in my school came over to me and tried to discourage me from taking BK. She said that many people she knew who took BK obtained 1As for all the subjects they took except for BK. She told me that I should not take this risk. But I firmly answered: "Puan, I am confident that I will do well in BK!" I knew that if I work hard,

God will definitely help me to obtain the best result that I deserve. I thank God that there are quite a number of students in my school who will be sitting for BK in their SPM this year and next year. Praise the Lord!

Besides attending the BK classes held in my church in Form 3 and Form 4, I studied BK under Ms. Moey in Form 4 and Form 5. Here, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Moey, who has been greatly used by the Lord to be a blessing to all of her students. I truly enjoyed every single lesson and I thank her for all her dedication and guidance. I gained tremendous knowledge about the books of Luke and Acts and about the life of Jesus as an example to all mankind on earth. Learning these two books has taught me and molded me to be more and more like Jesus and to look at life from a different perspective. I also enjoyed the fellowship that I had with all my BK classmates. Studying God's Word as a Family of God is truly a beautiful thing.

Lastly, I want to encourage all Christian students to take up BK as a subject in SPM. Do not miss this opportunity to learn God's Word! As it is written in the Bible "In Him we live and move and exist. Acts 17:28" and "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and the greatest commandment.... Matt 22:37-38" Taking up BK is a wonderful opportunity for us to honour and love the Lord with the minds that He has given us, so hesitate no more! Enjoy studying His word and God bless you!

7 *Rachel Yong Yuen May studied at SMK Assunta and obtained 10A1s and 2A2s (including A1 for BK) in the SPM 2008. She was awarded a Taylor's World Class Scholarship to do a Diploma in Culinary Arts in Taylor's University College. Below is her conversation with the Author.*

Dear Lord... I'm going to fail SPM," I cried with regret. I shouldn't have procrastinated. I shouldn't have taken extra subjects for SPM at all. No way I can revise all 12 subjects in a month before the exam. No way I can get straight As now. Ngaaah, how am I going to get a scholarship now?

Don't cry.

"... Why shouldn't I cry in this situation? Gosh, I have gone nuts. I'm hearing voices in my head," I sobbed.

Trust me and I'll give you the As that you'll need.

"... God, is that really you? Will you do that for me?" I whispered with disbelief. This can't be God talking. I'm not faithful to my bible reading or even when it comes to praying regularly. Moreover, I had thought about dropping Bible Knowledge in order to focus on my other subjects. I don't deserve to hear his voice.

Nonetheless, **peace** washed away my anxieties that day.

I have to confess that I took SPM Bible Knowledge for the wrong reason. I took it because I needed extra subjects to have a better chance at scholarships.

During that difficult time, I knew my chances for passing BK (let alone getting an A1) were slim because I didn't attend classes and had only a month left to study the 52 chapters.

Everyone, please don't be like me. Manage your time between your studies and extracurricular activities.

I am so blessed beyond measure to have taken BK for SPM. In the beginning, I thought it was just a typical subject which requires me to memorise it by heart in order to score. However, it taught my heart how to trust God.

YEAR 2009

8 *Chai Tze Lin studied at SMK Damansara Jaya. Tze Lin obtained 6A+, 2A and 2A- in the SPM with an A for BK.*

Someone once said, "Taking Bible Knowledge (BK) is an investment of time for eternity."

Personally, the decision to take BK as a subject for SPM was an easy one for me. My sister took it a few years back and was excited and passionate about what she learned through learning BK. She along with both my parents strongly encouraged me to take it too. So, I went for it not knowing that those two years of learning BK would help me in more ways than one.

I had the privilege of learning BK from Ms. Yeo Kim Eng. She is an amazing teacher and taught me more than just a subject for SPM. God has used her to touch the lives of many, including me. Most people have a preconceived notion that BK is a boring subject, but I can tell you with full certainty that it isn't. In fact, it is anything but boring.

In my particular experience, I believe that I have learnt more in BK than I have in any other subject. This is because BK wasn't just a subject. It was studying the Word of God. And God, in His awesome power and majesty, found a way to speak to me through BK. It was through certain verses and passages in the Bible that comforted me and reminded me of His love and presence in dark times. Also, the examples and experiences that were faced in Peter and Paul's lives give me strength and hope for tomorrow. Even now, I still remember with perfect clarity the lessons learnt in BK class as it has continuously been applied in my life.

Every now and then, I face a time in my life when I am in absolute turmoil. Be it stress over exams or the heartache of a broken relationship or many more. But one thing that has helped me through it all was the comfort and peace that God's Word alone can give. The knowledge that I have gained from BK is in me and during these particular times, verses pop up in my head reminding me that God is with me now and forevermore.

BK is not just another SPM subject, it is not just another "tuition class"; it is studying God's Word and that lasts for eternity. BK helps to build and strengthen our foundation as Christians and continue to mould us to be the salt of the earth through the studying of God's Word.

As Christians, we strive and yearn to know God better. To achieve this, we need to know His Word. BK has helped me understand and know more about God and how awesome He is. It has helped me in my walk with Him and brought me closer to Him. BK enriched my spiritual life and I'm sure it will bring you closer to God too!

Lastly, these two verses I leave with you. Matthew 24:35 tells us, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Also it states in Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." Therefore, be rest assured that no matter what happens in our life, God is always there for you and for me through His word.

God bless!

9 *Tay Jia Chyi studied at Muar High School. Jia Chyi obtained 10A+, 1A and 1A- in the SPM with an A for BK.*

As a new convert, I was at a loss where to start reading the Bible and it was through SPM Bible Knowledge that I was provided a foundation at where to start.

I would always allocate and set aside a special time just to study this particular subject and now I know better about the Word of God. Learning this subject itself also has changed me to a better person because our Lord Jesus Christ and Saint Paul have been excellent role models for me to look up to.

I am also very sure that learning this subject has something to do with me obtaining the JPA scholarship and I am very grateful to the Lord for such a blessing.

All in all, I am very glad that I had actually taken this subject and God had blessed me with such a wonderful result and I would like to encourage all of you to take up this subject, ace it with flying colours and most importantly, LOVE IT with all your heart! All the best and may God bless. Praise the Lord!

10 *Esther Chan studied at SMK Taman Sea. She obtained 6A+, 3A and 2A- in the SPM with an A for BK.*

First of all, I would like to thank God for what He has done. He has given me this wonderful opportunity to take Bible Knowledge as one of my SPM subject's and He has greatly blessed me with an A.

I'm not a person who reads the bible and prays constantly every day. I only do it occasionally when I have the time to do so. The reason why I took BK was because my sister took it when she was form 5. Another reason is because my church has classes for those who want to take BK and so it

was convenient for me.

When I was Form 4, I saw a registration list for those who want to sign up for BK classes. My friend asked me whether I was joining and I said yes! Immediately, I wrote down my name on the piece of paper. I never really thought of why I did that but I never regretted making that decision because it has truly benefited me in many different ways. I have learnt so much about God, how he performed miracles and how he was raised from the dead. It has taught me to be more patient like how God was patient with us although we rejected Him over and over again.

Besides thanking God for blessing me with an A for my BK, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Auntie Chwi Ling and Puan Carol for their dedication in teaching me BK. Without them, I would not have got the result that I have right now. I truly enjoyed their teachings, making every lesson enjoyable and fun. I also enjoyed the company of my BK classmates who constantly bring joy to the class every time. Studying the word of God together as a family truly is a wonderful and a beautiful thing.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all Christian students to take up BK as one of their subjects for SPM. Although the government has now limited the number of subjects to ten plus two, I urge all of you to think twice in taking up another extra subject. It may not be BK but it is good to take it up as an extra subject. I can guarantee that it is not a waste of time. It's an opportunity for us to draw closer to God and learn more about God. So do not hesitate in taking up Bible Knowledge as a subject. It will truly benefit you. God Bless!

11 *Eric Ong studied at SMK USJ 12. He obtained 8A+, 2A and 1A- in the SPM with an A in BK.*

BK is always something that puts a smile on my face when I journey down memory lane. My initial intention of taking up the subject was to follow in my sister's footsteps. After attending classes for a while, BK became more than just a subject to me. It was a constant reminder to me on what I should do and what we are living for.

Every time I studied BK, it was like having my Quiet Time as well. In the last few months before I sat for my BK exam, I told myself that the reason I was taking the subject was to do well, thus bringing glory to God's name. If I did not do well, people might question how serious I was when I chose to do the subject. Time and effort are required to master BK. There were times when I just felt like giving up when faced with difficult questions. Thanks to my BK teacher's encouragement, I was able to pull through the rough times. God is always there. He is my Strength and Comforter. By His grace I was able to do well in BK.

I would like to encourage other Christian youths to take up the challenge of taking BK as an extra subject for SPM. It is worth the time and has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me. Most importantly never forget to depend on and draw strength from the Lord.

12 *Grace Kiew studied in SMK(P) Sri Aman. She obtained 15A+ in the 2010 SPM and went on to A-Levels in Taylor's University.*

Studying the Bible seemed like an attractive option as opposed to taking up a subject I had never been exposed to before. After all, the Bible is something I read

everyday, so taking it as an exam subject was only logical.

However, as I soon found out, just *reading* the Bible is quite different from actually *studying* it. Despite all the memory work that BK demanded, I can't say that I have been anything other than thankfulness that I stuck with BK to the very end. It taught me to look at Luke and Acts in a completely different light, forcing me to pay attention to all the little details that I would never have noticed otherwise - but more than that, it built up my faith in God. Be it in the stilling of the storm, or the healing of the blind man - it reminds me time and again that God loves us, and whatever life may bring, we are in God's hands.

13 *Choong Joy Teen studied at SMK Convent Bukit Nanas. She obtained 6A+, 4A and 1A- in her SPM with an A in BK.*

Ever since being a Form One student, I've never imagined myself being able to hold any leadership position of any kind, nor have I been able to see myself as an excellent scorer in my studies. I only pictured myself as a typical reserved student with a rather low self confidence. Strangely, after Christ came into my life and after transferring my trust wholly to Him, He took hold of every single moment in my life, including times when I was in secondary school.

There is too much to testify about the great things God had done for me, but I'll just share a little on how He helped me through the times when I was preparing for my SPM examination. I remember clearly how much responsibilities I had to take on as not only I was the vice president of CF, I participated in the F1 in schools competition, and weekends were always busy with church activities. Adding on to that, exams were coming, and I had

no tuition classes at all.

No our team did not win, nor did I do very well in my exams. In fact, I got really disappointed and upset. But as time went by, I soon began to understand God's promise, which says that all things work for God to those who love Him. Indeed, my human knowledge tells me this is not the way things should be, but when God slowly reveals His purposes to me, I can see that it is not my competition nor my results He is working in, rather, He was working in me, He was changing and moulding me into a better person. All He wanted me to do was to completely trust in Him in every circumstances, and to be thankful and know that He is in control no matter what happens.

From then on, my faith in God grew stronger and stronger. When I came to form 5, fear began developing again as it was a big year for me, and I knew I had to do well in order to earn a scholarship to further my studies. But as the worries started building up, I knew it was time to be still, and to surrender everything into God's hands. I prayed and decided to take up two extra subjects for SPM, which are Principles of Accounts and Bible Knowledge. There was a lot of peer pressure in attending tuition classes after school, but I told God I didn't want to waste money and tire myself so much, so I asked Him to be my source of wisdom and strength. I only wanted to depend solely on him and to give my very best in my studies. At the same time, I was holding the presidency post of CF plus everyone was so busy preparing for the coming drama competition.

There were definitely times when I was just so tempted to give up, rant, complain, throw a tantrum, or just fill myself with stress and anxiety, but, God really gave me the peace I needed, just like what Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Truly, God really gave me this peace which I've never experienced before. Even as SPM was drawing closer and it seemed like the end of the world to some of us who were form five students, I was able to enjoy every moment of my examination, strangely, but with the help of God.

By the grace of God, He granted me 11As, which I would need for my scholarship applications. Dear friends who are reading my story now, especially to those who will be sitting for this year's SPM examinations, I hope that you'll listen to what I have to say.

Really, do not be worry AT ALL, God is your heavenly father, and He knows your needs and He is there to provide for you. All He wants you to do is to trust in Him and lean not on your own understanding, and in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will indeed make your paths straight. Of course, what God means by this is not just staring at the sky all day long and pray to God for straight A's. But know that acknowledging Him simply means carrying out your responsibility well as a student, and playing your part as how God wants you to, and of course, don't ever steal God's time using exams as an excuse. Of course, there will be times when you'll be tempted to, just like how I did, which was very wrong, for I learned that stealing God's time is just telling God that, " Hey, my studies are more important than you are." So I strongly encourage you to also spend time doing your devotions with God everyday. God will definitely bless you through His word, and this is more precious than anything else you can ever have.

Also, I want to encourage all form 4 students who are Christians, take up the challenge and take up Bible

Knowledge as your extra SPM subject. Be proud, for you will be studying God's word, and you'll be testifying to others that you truly love God. Do it not for the extra A, but rather, to glorify God's name. Remember, seek first the kingdom of God, and all the things you need will be added unto you. And, in everything you do, do it for the glory of our heavenly Father, and surely He will bless you in many ways.

YEAR 2010

14 *Choo Yuen En from SM. St. Patrick, Tawau*

BK is worth studying when you believe it is. I started to take BK when I was Form 3 and I've never regretted taking up that challenge. Though most of us are already familiar with the story of Jesus, somehow there is still something new to learn in every lesson. Sometimes, we may think that we know a lot or 'enough' to be called Christians, but in actual fact there is so much more that we are missing.

BK helps me understand more about Jesus. Knowing how He went through really hard times comforts and gives me strength because I know that He understands what I am going through. God is constantly speaking to me through His Word. Studying and reading His Word is much more important than any other subject, for the end of men's knowledge is the beginning of God's wisdom.

The Word of God is the source of Life and the Light for our pathway. What benefits there are when we memorize His Word! We should be grateful we're given this opportunity to take up the Word of God as a subject. There are many out there who don't even have the chance to read the Bible let alone study it in school. Staying back after class to study BK is tiring, yet I think it is a way for us to test our own desire to draw closer to God. The choice is in yours!

15 *Melvin Lee from Tawau, Sabah*

I started taking BK as a subject when I was in Form 2. I failed my first test and had to retake it, passing it barely. I wasn't used to the format of answering the questions

yet. Having to write long sentences was something new. Nevertheless, I managed to earn a credit in the exam that year. Under the guidance of our teachers, we built a firm base of knowledge of the events that happened in Luke and Acts.

Once I entered Form 4, BK was taken much more seriously as now it would show up on our report card. We were taught by Pastor Teh Chong Lay, an experienced and knowledgeable BK teacher who is also a lay-pastor of the church. In his class, we were brought deeper into the theology, linking them to the Old Testament prophecies. We were helped to understand the significance of certain events. He also guided us in the process of answering questions more precisely and concisely. As time passed; BK became one of the best subjects in my report card (not bad for a guy who failed his first test).

I always looked forward to BK class as it allowed us to openly debate on the theology and relevance of the events. I have learnt to decipher and analyse the Word of God, and through this I felt closer to God as I learn more about HIM.

16 *Choo Yik Wei from Tawau, Sabah*

Studying Luke has led me to appreciate Jesus' love towards the whole world and the Great Commission he gave to all His disciples, past and present. I also learned more about the culture and tradition of the Jewish people, as our teacher, Pastor Teh always explained the significance of an event or ceremony in the passage.

As for Acts, it is a very encouraging book that tells of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on believers. I truly believe

you will be blessed abundantly when you study the Word of God seriously, for His truth sets us free!

17 *Joshua Chew, SM St. Patrick, Tawau*

Teacher Evelyn introduced the subject to me and my teacher was Pastor Teh Chong Lay.

Bible Knowledge improved my English as there are no language errors in the Bible. Luke reveals to me who my personal Lord and Saviour is. Acts showed me how the Holy Spirit works through us every day so that I submit to God. The study guide provides additional facts to understand the Scriptures more. It is also a good material for daily devotion to God at home.

Bible Knowledge builds character with challenges such as how to balance spiritual life and studies. I stayed energetic even after a whole day at school and overcoming holiday mood during the 1 week break before taking the BK paper. God helped me to get a B in the SPM and I am thankful for his guidance in my life.

I encourage every Christian student to take BK. You actually learn only 2 books in 5 years, so it's not too much of a burden to our studies. This is the opportunity for teenagers to be close to God so that one can live wisely, fruitfully and successfully. Most of all, it equips us to serve, to love and to glorify God as we practice His laws carved in our hearts gladly. Make a spiritual investment now.

18 *Gabriel Wong from Tawau, Sabah*

I started taking Bible Knowledge in Form 2. The first thing that crossed my mind was that this subject was interesting. I had been keen to know more about the Word

of God. I was quite amazed how the BK class helped break down the two books into smaller little bits, as we swallowed it week by week. It was challenging to take Chinese at the same time, in Form 4, but I'm thankful that I managed. I have learned much about what God is able to do in our lives.

I challenge you to take this subject, not purely as an SPM subject, but as the powerful Word of God so He can use you in His own way. "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33).

19 *Peter Aun Maojun studied at SMK Damansara Utama. He obtained 11A+ in the SPM including A+ for BK. After A-Levels in Help on a JPA scholarship, he went on to a course in Economics and Finance in USA.*

My two BK teachers' were both dedicated. I came to know about BK when I was very young, as my siblings took it for their SPM. Since Form 2, I attended BK classes and Postal Quizzes. I used to think that BK was just another SPM subject. Only later I realized how blessed I was to study God's precious Word and to be tested on it. Though it requires extra effort and time, taking BK was one of the **best decisions** I ever made. I never came across another SPM subject that came so 'alive'!

My weekly class was something I really looked forward to. Apart from great fellowship, it really opened my eyes to many interesting facts and brought a new perspective to God's Word. And **the best thing about BK** is you can apply in your daily life!!

One thing really struck me - how perfect and flawless God's plan is! Take Paul's missionary journey for example. God perfectly crafted all of Paul's journeys to ensure His

words would spread far and wide at the right time and place. From persecuting the church, he ended up building the church of God! I believe if we all offer ourselves as living vessels for God, he too can use us mightily!

Friends, I believe BK is one great opportunity God has given us to share the gospel with our friends. Many times, my peers in school asked me what BK was and this was a chance to share my faith and to explain who Jesus is. Knowing Luke and Acts well made sharing the gospel an easier task.

I was given an 'A' for BK rather than the 'A+' I hoped for. To add insult to injury, I was ridiculed by some friends and teachers on the day I collected my SPM results. However, God had a plan. I attended scholarship interviews and was asked about BK. I was able to share my faith with the interviewers and the impact BK had made on my life.

In April, **I appealed for a re-marking and, by God's grace, I received an 'A+'.** I truly believe that if you honour him, He will definitely honour you. But trust Him to guide and open your mind to remember all the facts.

20 *Esther Hor Shan Lin studied in Treacher Methodist Girl School, Taiping. She obtained 11A+ in her SPM 2010 including BK.*

"What is your religion really all about?"

"What makes you so sure that you are saved, and we are not?"

I took Bible Knowledge because when my friends asked me such questions, I could not quite give them a convincing answer. The knowledge I had about what I believe in was

very basic - even embarrassing to some extent. **Something had to change.**

I have really enjoyed and benefited loads. Honest. Guidance from dedicated teachers and fellowship with a group of like-minded believers were invaluable. Likewise, the knowledge learnt and implemented has helped me grow stronger in my faith. After all, how can you believe, when you are not sure of what you believe in?

Even in my school life, bible verses have helped me through thick and thin. Taking Bible Knowledge has helped me to reach out to my friends who were curious about this 'new and unheard of subject'.

When I failed to obtain an A+ for this subject in SPM, people asked me that question even more frequently. I was devastated. The look of disappointment on my school teachers' faces said it all. Why take a subject that ruins your straight A+ result, people asked.

Yes, I may have had let the people around me down, but at the end of the day, the question about education is: What have you learnt? How has it impacted your life? To quote Albert Einstein, 'Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.' I believe Luke and Acts stay fresh in my mind till now.

It is true that our Lord works in ways beyond our imagination. **After appealing, I received the final A+ for Bible Knowledge.** This reiterates the fact that God is in total control of everything; and that everything will happen according to His perfect will. Later, I was awarded the JPA scholarship to study medicine overseas (Penang Medical College/Ireland twinning programme).

Am I looking for a subject that will enable me to get perfect results without much lasting impact? Or am I looking for true knowledge that will carry me through my life?

21 *Winnie Chin Fun Lee from SMK Convent St. Cecilia, Sandakan, Sabah*

My name is Winnie Chin Fun Lee. I am from SMK Convent St. Cecilia, Sandakan, Sabah and was a 2007 SPM candidate. I decided to take Bible Knowledge because I felt that I should grab this opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the Bible since the government offered this subject. I know the study will help my spiritual life as a young Christian. Once I decided to take this subject I prepared to put much effort and time into it. I learnt a lot from both Luke and Acts. The book of Luke gives a reliable and precise record of the history of Jesus Christ's life and emphasized the humanity of Christ and his perfection as a human. Jesus was the perfect man who gave the perfect sacrifice for sin to become the perfect Saviour for humankind. On the other hand, the book of Acts provides a detailed account of the birth and growth of the early church and the spread of the gospel after the ascension of Jesus Christ.

I obtained 4A's for my SPM and a 9G for Bible Knowledge. Although I got 9G for my Bible Knowledge, it did not affect me badly as God still blesses me in my studies and in my life. I know that as long as I honour God, He will prepare a wonderful way for me. By the grace of God, I could pursue my studies in University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), taking the Bachelor of Science (Mathematics with Economy) course.

Grades should not be a worry because I believe that as long we do our best, God will help us and never forsake us.

22 *Jemima Wee Wei Ning, Catholic High School*

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE IS AWESOME!! I loved going for classes; they enabled me to understand God's Word in a deeper way. Besides, it was fun. Studying this subject made me reflect on my personal life as well, especially on priorities and my relationship with God.

Undeniably, I had to study hard, but hey, taking God's Word as a subject is an honour. Some of you might be struggling; I'm here to encourage you: Don't give up! I know juggling many subjects isn't easy. I find the following tip helpful even as I'm doing my Form 6 now: When my attention seems to decrease, as my brain seems to turn its back on me, and when I feel like giving up, I just remind myself: there's always God.

My friends, when you're in need of help, turn to Him. He's always here for you. He is your source of strength, your source of hope, especially when you think that your studies like Additional Mathematics or Physics are at rock bottom. Commit yourself to Him everyday, entrust your life to Him. He'll help you to go through this phase, holding your hand as you go. I felt, and still feel the difference. I believe you will too.

YEAR 2011

23 *Sherina Mary Windsor studied at SMK Sri Aman, P.J. She obtained 4A+'s, 2A's and 4A-'s in the 2011 SPM.*

I would like to thank and praise God for His blessings in my secondary school life, especially in Form Five. Last year was a very stressful SPM year. I had a hard time with homework, tuition and school activities. Sometimes I got really afraid thinking that I was not going to perform well in SPM as I am not a very bright student.

However, God was always by my side, constantly reminding me that He is in control of everything. I took up Bible Knowledge too for SPM. Although it was tough at first, I started enjoying, learning about Luke and Acts in depth. I prayed and asked God to help me to get 10 A's. However, I knew that whatever the results was, God knows the best. My parents told me not to worry about my results but just do my best. My BK teacher always reminded me that God will acknowledge me for learning and taking up BK for SPM.

I am really thankful to God for giving me 10 A's in SPM. It was definitely His blessing. Nothing else. I could not have done it with my own strength. Not at all. I never got higher than 75% for BK before. Not even in trials. I was always disappointed with my BK marks, but God is great. I got an A for BK in SPM. I trusted in God and He never let me down. Nothing is impossible with God. Glory to God Almighty. Praise God.

24 *Ng Sherwin studied at SMK Assunta, P.J. Sherwin obtained 8A+'s and 2A's in the 2011 SPM.*

First thing's first, I want to give all praise and glory to God

and thank Him for blessing me with such good results. I truly would never have imagined to be one of the few to get an A+ in BK this year. Without God, I would never have gotten this far. Those who know me would know I'm not a very studious person. A lot of my studying is done last minute, but miraculously God has made this work for me.

I also owe my results to an amazing, dedicated and experienced BK teacher, Ms Moey, who has been tirelessly teaching BK for many years. As her students, we were required to study and memorize passages every week before coming for classes. It was tough, as no other SPM subject required that much commitment, but it has definitely paid off. Ms Moey has brought to life many of the events in Luke and Acts for me.

By taking BK for SPM, I've come to realize and appreciate the important small details and significances of events in Luke and Acts. It is the first time I've truly *studied* books of the bible so carefully, and by knowing His Word so well, I have really seen God at work in my life.

I would encourage all Christian students to take BK for SPM. It may be tough, but the time and effort invested in studying this subject is very worth it. It will not just be head knowledge for SPM, but this knowledge will be real and applicable throughout your life!

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from
your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin
against you.

¹² Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.

¹³ With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your
mouth.

¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

¹⁶ I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Psalm 119:9-16

25 *Calwin Tang scored 7A+'s, 1A, 1A- and 2B+'s, including a B+ for BK, in the 2011 SPM.*

I attended Bible Knowledge class every Sunday during my Form 4 and Form 5. To be honest, the reason I signed up for Bible Knowledge was due to the constant pushing towards that direction by my mother. I was hesitant to do it because of the extra effort needed as I already had 10 other SPM subjects.

When Bible Knowledge comes to my mind, I initially thought of it as another subject to memorize, like History. As my BK lessons proceeded, I actually learnt things deeper than what it seemed at the surface. It was actually interesting to learn so much surprising stuff about my own religion, like causes and effects of decisions made by people. BK equipped me with a better understanding of the Christian life based on the Word of God and not opinions of others.

The SPM BK paper itself was very basic and not difficult. The skills I learnt in BK, such as absorbing information better, actually helped me to do well in SPM. Why take BK as another subject in SPM? Well, if you want to learn a foreign language, you would need to go beyond initial greetings to holding an intelligible conversation, right?

You have to make your own decision, although my mother would say, as a child of God, you certainly would want to read your Father's letter to you, even if you don't score

A+.

Best of luck with your future endeavours.

26 *Ivanna Yap En Tse*

When I started Form 4 in 2010 I decided to take Bible Knowledge as my 11th subject although only 10 subjects were allowed then. Being told the grading system would be high did not deter me either: learning and knowing the truth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ was more important.

Yipee! The Lord opened the way...came 2011, the Education Ministry announced we were allowed "10+2" subjects! Next hurdle was the cruelty of putting the Sejarah and BK paper on the same day! Thanks be to God, He graciously gave me A for BK and A+ for *Sejarah* and an overall of 9 A+ and 2 A's in the SPM which made me the top student for SM St Anne Labuan. No regrets in taking BK, instead, the lessons and insights learnt are immense and irreplaceable. So, seek first the kingdom of God.

27 *Vanessa, Valerie and Vivian Chong from SMK Bandar Tun Hussein Onn, Selangor*

We, the triplets got to know about Bible Knowledge through our church members in All Saints' Church. Studying Bible Knowledge for SPM has been fun and it has led us to a balanced spiritual life where we too understand more about God. We were the only candidates taking BK for SPM in our school and most of our teachers had not even heard of BK! Our dad has been the most supportive person. He encouraged us to do our best to glorify God and always says "whatever it is, the grades don't matter". He even attended the Regional Quiz and the BK Oral quiz with

us.

The three of us understood more of the Bible as we studied Luke and Acts every week for one and a half years. We did not score A's but our lives have become richer and more powerful by the Living Word of God. It's a great blessing to have our BK teacher teach us and give us intensive classes during the period of preparation for SPM. We highly recommend this subject to all SPM candidates. Find JOY studying this subject! It is an ETERNAL investment! Don't miss the chance.

28 *Lee Chen Yuan*

Bible Knowledge is a remarkable subject for Christians to take up. For me, BK had made an impact on my life. Not only is my faith towards God strengthened but my daily life as a student has been smoothened. After taking up BK, I find that I can memorize better especially in Biology for Form 6. BK improved my English language and ability to write fast as well. Frankly, BK is one of the subjects that can be scored A easily just by having to read the book of Luke and Acts a few times and understand them well. For me, throughout the whole 2 years of form 4 and form 5, I think I had read book of Luke and Acts around 5 to 10 times, especially the front chapters and did exercises that were in the books. I managed to score an A for BK in 2011 SPM.

YEAR 2012

29 *Grace Jerald*

I took BK in Form 4 and 5 because I was advised by my family and church leaders. As a Science student I already had 11 subjects and taking BK meant putting more hours into my studies. It was not as easy as I thought it would be because having been brought up in a Christian family I assumed studying for BK would be like my weekly Sunday school lessons.

As I studied Luke and Acts in depth, I realized that there were a lot of things I didn't know from these two books. All the tiny details that I assumed were not significant actually played a role in awakening my thoughts and building my relationship with God. Studying BK is not just memorizing the details in the books of Acts and Luke. It helped me to understand God's purpose and plan in my life. One thing that fascinated me the most was how the early Christians had a passion for sharing the Gospel despite the persecution they had to endure. It is from there that I got the inspiration to be involved in kids' ministry in church and reach out to those in campus.

Studying BK is definitely not a waste time. I have been equipped with God's Word. It's been six years now and I of still remember the details I studied from Luke and Acts. To all BK students, remember taking BK is an investment for your future: God's Word will never pass away.

30 *Benedict Sim studied at SMK Taman Sea, PJ. He obtained 7A+'s, 1B+ and 1B in the 2012 SPM, including an A+ for BK.*

Taking BK as one of my SPM subjects was one of the toughest yet most fulfilling milestones in my walk with Christ. When I first heard that the subject was offered, I was hesitant on taking it up as I already had 10 subjects to deal with for SPM. However, after much thought and prayer, I decided to do so as I felt it was part of my responsibility as a Christian to take BK.

As I took up BK classes every Sunday for the two years leading up to SPM, I wondered what I had got myself into, especially when I was briefed of the syllabus of the subject and the structure of the examination. All 52 chapters from both the book of Luke and Acts made me wonder if I can even pass this paper with the seemingly unmanageable workload I was already carrying. However, I decided that I would work hard on the subject like any other and trust the Lord to see me through. Although two years worth of Sunday leisure time had to be put aside for BK classes, I believe that it was worth it. Taking BK classes had given me a detailed and greater understanding towards the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as the acts of the Apostles as they obey Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Through the understanding of the culture Jesus and the apostles were in, we were able to understand the context of the teachings and parables of Jesus, the meaning behind the actions of Jesus and the apostles.

Most importantly, taking time to read the book of Luke and Acts allowed me to see for myself the hand of the Lord working through Jesus and the apostles, as well as His plan for the salvation of mankind through Jesus Christ. Taking BK was more than just taking a subject to pass. Through BK, I've realized the importance of not only reading the word of the Lord but to love it and to love reading it in our walk with Jesus. Even after my BK and secondary school days, I've never regretted taking

BK as an SPM subject as I can now not only use the book of Luke and Acts to share the Good News with my friends, but also use them as guides in my walk with Jesus.

For those who have trouble deciding on whether to take BK as an SPM subject or not, I encourage you all to do so because I truly believe that good Christian living starts from reading the very words of our Lord. It doesn't matter what results one gets for BK in SPM. What is truly precious is the knowledge of the word of the Lord and the love for it. In the end, all glory should go to our Lord and Saviour. Take up BK! Not to add another "A" onto your report card, not to challenge your academic abilities, not because your parents force you to, but take it up to see and share the glory of our Lord through His written word, that His name be lifted up.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

31 *Stephanie Wan studied at SMK Subang Utama, Subang Jaya. She obtained 10A+'s and 1A- in the 2012 SPM, including an A+ for BK.*

"You're taking BK?"

That wide-eyed expression of awe and surprise in the questioner's face, mingled with a tinge of pity, is not an unfamiliar one to me, and I am fairly sure I am not alone in this respect.

The negative stigma surrounding Bible Knowledge SPM has long been around and is not unjustified considering the high and possibly unjust grading standards and difficulty level of the subject itself. I won't mince words - it's a

challenge. Because BK is a text-based subject that is largely dependent on memory work, it does require a lot of consistency and many hours of revision. It's not a subject that can be taken for granted, or absorbed within a couple of months.

There were certain points during those long hours of revision where I did question the purpose of it all. Why do I have to memorize this text word for word? Isn't it enough that I understand the message underlying the text? Why must so much emphasis be placed on the exact wording that I use? I guess I only came to the resolution of those questions well after I finished my exams. There is importance in being able to know the text very well, because sometimes a simple substitution for a word can change the entire meaning.

Going really in-depth into the Books of Acts and Luke really touched a core with me I don't think I would have reached had I not read them through so often. I got to fully appreciate the true compassion of Jesus in his simple utterance of the words 'Don't cry' to the weeping widow, and his righteous outrage at his Father's house being turned into a 'hideout for thieves'. I witnessed Paul's courage in saying 'But I reckon my own life to be worth nothing to me; I only want to complete my mission and finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do,' and yet also know of times when he would become so discouraged and would need the Lord's help in the words 'Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking and do not give up, for I am with you.' I got to see these characters in the Bible as more than just humans who existed many years ago, but as real people with very real humanistic tendencies, making them all the more relatable.

Overall, I will still readily tell any person who queries that BK is a subject that is worth it. Out of the eleven subjects

I took for SPM, it still remains my favourite subject albeit being the subject I put in the most effort for. Because at the end of the day, achieving that A+ grade is more than just a simple achievement printed on a piece of paper, on par with the other subjects. It's a testimony in so many ways. It's a testimony of God's faithfulness, a testimony to my juniors that it IS possible and we shouldn't let our fears of an unjust system deter us from continuing to take the subject. For every student that makes a stand and takes Bible Knowledge as a subject for SPM, we become that much closer to ensuring BK stays on as an SPM subject.

It's more than just a subject, it's the Word of God - a subject for life.

Luke 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never disappear."

32 *Jessie Tan studied at St. David's High School, Melaka. Jessie obtained 5A+'s, 1A, 2A-'s and 2B's in the 2012 SPM.*

Taking BK for SPM was not to get an extra A. If that was it, I wouldn't have done it. Having 9 subjects to worry about was enough for me already! Personally, the main reason I took BK was so that I'm forced to study the bible in detail all the time because my bible was always left to collect dust whenever I'm preparing for exams. To have God's subject included in the exams, I'll automatically squeeze out time for it.

At first my parents didn't agree on my decision to take BK for SPM. Their concern was that it's very hard to score and it wouldn't look good on my result slip if I scored all A's and a B or C for BK. It's a big difference between straight A's for 9 subjects and 9 A's and a B for 10

subjects. I myself didn't really want to do it at first because I thought BK was like another history subject, having to memorise word for word was one of the hardest things for me to do. So I didn't make the extra effort to convince my parents then.

At the start of my form 5 when we're supposed to register the subjects we want for SPM, God suddenly reminded me of why I should take BK. So, after asking my friends to pray for me, I worked up the courage to ask my parents again for their permission to take BK. By God's grace and to my surprise, they actually allowed it!

I started attending BK class on Saturdays and the journey wasn't easy because I was one year behind everyone. There were so many times I wanted to quit because my results in tests and exams were always in the range of 60-70% only. Frustrating as it was, God was with me every step of the way. Through quiet time, CF and people around me, He comforted me and gave me strength to go on.

In that one year I studied Luke and Acts, I still learned the same thing I did in Sunday school but what's different was I learned to apply it in life, for example to remain faithful like in the parable of the widow and the judge. It not only benefitted me but God also used me to help those around me through His words. I experienced God in ways throughout the year that I know I wouldn't have if I had not taken up this challenge.

BK was one of the 2 B's in my SPM results. If you're wondering whether I regret my decision, my answer : No.

33 *Isabel Chew Huey Sien studied at Catholic High School. She obtained 8A+'s, 2A's and 1A- in the 2012 SPM.*

Bible Knowledge. We know it as "that Christian subject" or "the subject that is impossible for students to score in". Let me share a bit on my experience of taking Bible Knowledge.

When I first joined a Bible Knowledge class, I was excited to accept the challenge of taking bible Knowledge for SPM, as were my fellow classmates. As with many things in life, we all started with much enthusiasm, promising ourselves to dedicate as much time to God's subject as we would to other school subjects. Yet, the months went by, and so did the people. Disheartened, many students dropped Bible Knowledge, giving up along the way.

Did I ever doubt myself? I'll be frank with you, I got really, really scared a month before SPM. Why? Because Sejarah and Bible Knowledge were on the same day. I know what you're thinking. It's somewhere along the lines of a nightmare. But it was a good thing too. It made me work even harder. Though, there were times when I got frustrated and panicked, that was when God became my solid rock on whom I trusted. I prayed and literally told God, "Lord Jesus, I'm doing this for you! I'm giving it my all, so please help me. Also, you owe me an A+." Repeatedly.

"Aiyah, BK cannot score A one lah! Why do you want to take it? It's not going to look good on your certificate!"

Sounds familiar to you? I heard it quite a few times. Fellow Christian students, and yes, Christian parents, often believe this to be true. But the actual fact is, no subject is simple, and good results for Bible Knowledge is NOT impossible. I think the reason why so many students do not do well in Bible Knowledge for SPM has to do with the fact that they limit themselves, thinking that it is difficult, or impossible to score well. Bible Knowledge is a subject just

like any other; it requires a student to be willing to sit down and dedicate as much time and effort to it, as much as any other subject. I honestly believe that if students taking Bible Knowledge give it their all and have in mind that they indeed want to honour God, then God will bless them back in return, and grant them the grades they worked for.

And In March this year, I held my SPM result slip in my hands, hardly believing my eyes as I saw what was written on the last row. 'Bible Knowledge A+'. With all that I've shared, are you thinking of taking up this subject? It's a scary decision, but why don't you pray about it? Are you a top student, afraid of not doing well, and losing the perfect score or the straight A+ you have been aiming for? Well, why don't you give it a try? All the more so since God has blessed you with the ability to study. Reality is, if we Christians do not rise up in faith to take Bible Knowledge, who would? And indeed, what is the point of making available a subject that nobody takes anyway?

Lastly, I want to share some tips on how to study for this amazing subject that is so full of God's truth! First, sign up for classes and get a study buddy. Check up on each other to make sure that you both are dedicating enough time for the subject. Second, read the entire textbook once through to get a 'Bird's eye view' and then delve deeper into each chapter, taking note of what happened, who was involved, why it happened, when was it, what happened after that etc. Third, test yourself! Do not memorise blindly. Sometimes, remembering it as a story helps! Fourth, practice makes perfect. You might not remember the whole page all at once, but keep at it! Fifth, memorise key points. You need to write precisely what happened during the exam. Sixth, do past year papers and pay attention to how marks are awarded according to the marking scheme. Then you would know what to look out for

when you study. Last but not least, treat it like any other subject. You need time and dedication to study for this one. No amount of last minute studying will do.

34 *Joseph Siaw Wen Liang studied at St. Francis Institution. He obtained 4A+'s, 4A's, 1A- and 1B+ in the 2012 SPM.*

Hi! I would like to share with you my experience in BK study. Learning BK for the past 2 years has really been a humbling experience for me. I have only a vague memory of how I first came across BK. It was most likely through my churchmate or classmate. I am grateful that this person introduced me to this subject. At first, I went into it because it sounded interesting and special since not many students would be likely to sit for this subject for their SPM in my school. I have heard my seniors say that it was tough handling the memorizing and it was hard to get an A let alone an A+ because of the strict and high standard marking. In my mind at that time, I wanted to take up that challenge.

At first, BK to me was just an extra subject to take in SPM. However, as lessons go by, I began to gain many things in my life. I felt thankful to God that He has used this BK studies to change my life. Since learning BK, I have actually read and gone through details of the Bible more than I ever did before. The Bible has been more relevant in my life ever since and although there are times now when I still felt reluctant about picking up my Bible, I will remember the memorable times I had during my BK classes and commit to my daily devotion. Apart from that, I had also made some close friends in my BK class. I had always been shy. Most of the time, it was hard for me to make friends quickly since I was not that out-spoken. So I cherish them a lot even though they may not know it. I am

grateful that God has placed great friends in my life to be my guide towards Him and also to teach me and be my company. I was also joyful to be taught by a loving teacher who makes the class interesting and I enjoyed the practice we had in preparing for the BK Quiz. Whenever a problem arises, our teacher could solve it, and she has tutored me and my friends with dedication and compassion. Our teacher had also encouraged and drilled us not only to succeed in this subject, but also helped us know God and grow in Him in spirit and in truth.

The competitions and seminar have also allowed me to expand my knowledge in BK. It was tough at first knowing that there were lots of writing and memorizing to do. However, it actually helped me to know more about God's Word and His works. Apart from Jesus, the mortal character that inspired me while studying both books of Luke and Acts was Paul. He was once a dreadful rebel of God, when a bright light shone upon him near Damascus and changed his life, and he turned out to be one of the greatest servants of God in the Bible. He is my example, knowing that God still loves him even though he is a sinner, God used him for His great and mighty works to be shown to the world. If I hadn't studied BK, I wouldn't have learnt so many details about him. I thank God for the blessings He has given me on my journey of learning BK. I did not get an A in any of my BK monthly tests or trials, but, not to boast, I was constantly improving, from a D to a B, when finally in SPM, I got an A. Though it wasn't an A+, I'm joyful and grateful that God has helped me along the way. He has humbled me to become a better person. I encourage all of you who are taking BK- God has a plan for each of you and it is not a wrong decision. Do continue reading the Bible more even after SPM because our spiritual life doesn't stop there, it goes on eternally.

YEAR 2013

35 *Ashley Ho Yi Yin studied at Sri Sempurna and obtained 3A+, 4A, 2A- and a B+, including an A for BK in the SPM. She is currently doing the A-levels).*

My name is Ashley and I'm from Sekolah Menengah Sri Sempurna (SMSS), now known as Sri Sempurna International School. Last year, I took Bible Knowledge as an extra subject in SPM. Although I knew I did fairly well in this subject based on previous exams, there was always doubt that it might affect my performance in my main subjects as I would have less time to concentrate on them. However, I trusted that God would bring me through it according to His plan. And so, you could say that taking Bible Knowledge as an extra subject for me was a leap of faith! Sure, I had my doubts at certain points in the year, wondering how I was going to study for my other subjects, attend family functions, keep up with school activities and have the time to read the book of Acts and Luke all in one week. I honestly thought I would reach my breaking point and truthfully, I did but I realized through this whole process that God would not put me through a situation I couldn't handle. If He thought that I could do it, why couldn't I? Therefore, by taking BK, I not only learned so much about God but the extent of His power as well. Yes, by studying the word of God, we can grow spiritually and mentally and have the scripture in our hearts but what I have taken back from BK lessons has truly helped me pushed through a hard year. Whenever I felt as if I wanted to give up and I was too tired to go on, I would think back to how God has shown the greatness of his power in healing the sick and delivering evil spirits. I would remind myself of God's promise as I thought back to the piece of scripture we had studied that week. My advice for those considering taking BK in the future for SPM is not to

look at BK as a subject but to think of it as lessons learned that can help you in difficult times. BK helps you to stay close to God, to keep His promises close to your heart and know that you can do all things through Him who strengthens you. "Give Your Burdens to the Lord, and He will care for you.

He will not permit the godly to slip and fall." When you are overwhelmed by fear and anxiety, turn to God. God will honour your faithfulness. Worrying only discredits the faith that God will protect you.

36 *Lee Zi Sheng studied at SMK(L) Methodist KL. He scored 9A+ and 2A, including an A+ for BK. He is currently doing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Taylor's College.*

How do you put an unforgettable, life changing experience into words that does it justice? Here is my try:

Not many had answered the principal's call to the Christian students to register for Bible Knowledge, familiar to the stories of how all the odds were stacked against previous candidates. Tough grading, heavy study load, and previously being on the same day as SPM Sejarah-you name it, BK provides every nightmare known to today's SPM candidate. But we tend to forget the one reason that turns the tide in our favour: our Almighty God is with us in our SPM BK journey, seeing us through it. Jesus is asking us, His disciples, as we sail through the storm of SPM that is seemingly drowning us, when we are giving up on all hope of coping with BK, "Where is your faith?"

Indeed, it has been a tough but very blessed journey. God provided the best teachers to guide me through my study, who have made(maybe forced!) me to study(or

memorize!)my texts regularly every week, knowing very well that last minute studying never works for Bible Knowledge. They have given me the most complete materials, extra notes, past year analyses, tests and quizzes that I could ever ask for. Our BK teacher, Mrs Lim, also prayed with us before we entered the examination hall, and it calmed us down a lot. God also placed the best classmates (both my normal class and BK class) around me to help me when I needed them. I remember before we left for Ms Moey's class every Friday, our non-Christian classmates would volunteer to test us on what we have memorized for the week! It has certainly helped me to remember all the minute details that our answer schemes demand.

And best of all, studying BK has helped me in my other subjects! We always lament how BK takes up so much of the time that we can use to revise other subjects, but I have been able to quote the teachings of Jesus in my essays, particularly in my SPM Literature in English paper. Studying the book of Acts has allowed me to be familiar with the names of places throughout the Roman Empire, and they were not so foreign to me when we were learning it in Sejarah! Also, memorizing regularly has also tuned my mind well to help me memorize facts for other subjects too. Sometimes it seems as if BK had put us in a handicap for our other subjects, but all along God was preparing me to study them better and more productively. In fact, if I didn't take up BK for SPM, I wouldn't have qualified for the MOE Pre-U Bursary. Who says BK was a handicap to achieving excellent overall results? All glory goes to God.

Taking up Bible Knowledge was the biggest highlight of my SPM journey. It is not just about an examination, but a subject for life. God's Word is personified in our lives when we know it in-depth. Our knowledge of the sciences or the arts will fade away the moment we study it no more,

but the Word of God that has been hidden in our hearts will accompany us forever.

37 *Bernard Goh Teck Yang, studied at SMK St. Columba, Miri. He obtained 9A+ and 1A in the SPM, including an A+ for BK. He is currently studying Electrical Power Engineering in UNITEN.*

My school offers BK for SPM. Excitedly, I signed up right away! With enthusiasm, I took to the subject with vigour. I actually ignored the fact that this subject is notorious for being the most difficult to score A+, but I can't deny that I've never been afraid or worried that I might lose out on a scholarship if I persevere in taking the supposedly impossible subject.

But looking back, taking BK may be the best decision I have ever made in my life. By taking the subject, I have learned to trust in God. Many people told me that taking BK would be akin to suicide since I would be putting my straight A+ result on the line as well as requiring extra attention that could have been put into improving my Bahasa Malaysia or other subjects. Secondly, taking BK actually saved my skin! In SPM after the Moral Studies fiasco and disappointment in Bahasa Malaysia, I was left with 8A+. So in a sense, BK contributed to my A+ tally which I thought would be unlikely as compared to Moral or BM! God indeed works in mysterious ways! Lastly, God gave me a scholarship. Through The Lord's blessing, I managed to secure three scholarships in total from Yayasan Tenaga Nasional (YTN), Maybank and Taylor's University! But in the end, I chose YTN to pursue Electrical Power Engineering even though I've always wanted to be a doctor (Maybank offered me medicine). Why? Because I felt like this is God's calling. I felt like this path is where he is leading me to go.

In conclusion, I don't regret taking BK at all! A+ or a good result in BK is not impossible, as long as you work hard and pray hard. As Abraham once said, "The Lord will provide."

38 *Eugene Low Yi Ming studied at SMK Batu Lapan, Jalan Puchong. He obtained 4A+, 5A, 1A- and 1B+, including an A for BK. He is currently doing Foundation in Science (Health Science) at UCSI, KL.*

Taking Bible Knowledge was really a tough task for me during my secondary school life. I was a full-time science stream student, and it was really difficult to handle eleven subjects in school, not to mention that I had tuition classes most of the days after school. Christian students who are in the same dilemma, I understand your fear, I really do. But thanks to the support and encouragement from my family members and church members, I took up this challenge, and I realized that I have learnt a lot and benefitted a lot from it. For those of you who do not know, BK covers two books in the bible, namely "Luke" and "Acts of the Apostles". "Luke" is really an interesting book and I was able to learn in-depth about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, whereas "Acts" taught me about the life and ministry of Paul and his perseverance in preaching the Gospel. It was Paul's perseverance and attitude that has driven me to do better in my studies, especially in BK. Since everything that involves school grades are taken so seriously, taking BK as a subject in school can serve as a motivation for us to study the Bible more seriously. I also want to give credit to my BK teacher, Ms. May Kuek, who had taught me diligently and patiently for two years. Without her dedicated teaching, I would not be able to do well in BK or even have the courage to take BK as my elective subject. Words cannot describe the dedication and effort that she had put into educating her students.

Thank you, Aunty May.

Lastly, for those upcoming SPM candidates, Form 4 and Form 5-ers, if you are still hesitating whether or not to take Bible Knowledge in SPM, I can tell you, just go ahead and take it, it is really a great opportunity to learn about God's word. I tell you, you will definitely benefit a lot from it and will never regret taking it by the end of the day. Besides, we are His sons and daughters, and as students, we cannot do much to serve Him, so the littlest thing that we can do is to learn about His word. I will stop here and let you think about it. Thank you for your precious time to read my testimony. All the best!

39 *Jessica Marian Lee Mei Sze studied at SMK Sultan Abdul Samad, PJ. She obtained 3A+, 2A, 2A-, 1B+ and 1C+ in the SPM, including an A for BK. She is currently doing Foundation in Science at UCSI.*

It was pretty hard for me at first when I took Bible Knowledge in 2012. The early morning Sunday classes was not really my cup of tea. The first few months I literally had to drag myself to class. I guess my heart was not in the right place. At that time, the only 2 reasons I took BK was because everyone encouraged me to do so and I guess I wanted to prove to others that I was smart enough to excel in that subject. But as I studied God's word, He changed my heart and touched me in so many ways. The more I learned, the more I fell in love with Him. I then saw how wrong my previous reasons were. Studying BK was challenging as the subject required lots of memorizing and certain questions critical thinking. But thanks to the help of my BK teachers and a teacher at school, it was easier for me to understand the subject without really memorizing but more of recalling the teachers' explanation. BK was my favourite subject in SPM even

though it was a bit discouraging to sit for the paper all by myself. But oh well, it was funny to have all 3 invigilators to myself. As quoted from a movie, the Bible is not just Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. It is way more than that, it is God's love letter for you and me.. :)

40 *Shalom Lee Li-Ling studied at SMK Subang Utama. She obtained 9A+ and 2A in the SPM, including an A+ for BK. She is currently doing the A-Levels in Sunway College.*

Taking Bible Knowledge as an examination subject certainly wasn't a bed of roses, at least that's how I see it from my point of view. There are things, however, that God had revealed to me through this experience.

I had been studying Bible Knowledge since Form 3. Probably the most significant reason why I decided to start on this subject a year earlier was to get a bit of experience on how tough it is actually rumoured to be, and then only start making the final decision at Form 5 to either drop or take this subject. Both my brothers actually took this subject for SPM and gained ok grades (so I thought why not try it out too :P). Frankly speaking, even to the point of Form 5, when I had to decide the subjects that I am signing up for SPM, I couldn't decide on whether I should had drop or take Bible Knowledge. I was feeling very stressed out from having to juggle between 11 subjects and all the other co-curricular activities. Anyway, I decided to sign up for it, trusting that God will certainly help me through it.

One of my favourite parables from the book of Luke is the parable of the friend at midnight. It taught me on how persistent prayers actually pay off. Luke 11:9-10 says "And so I say to you: Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For those

who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks." Well, God certainly heard my prayers and frustrations. When I had transportation problems, my teachers, Miss Doreen and Mr Teoh willingly provided me with transport. Their classes were also easy to understand and the recaps we did in class almost every week helps a lot.

My results itself is a little unbelievable to me. I am not over exaggerating if I were to say that because of this subject, I was able to obtain the KPM bursary, which I had really hoped and prayed hard to obtain. This bursary is only given to students scoring 9A+ and above in SPM. If I had decided to drop this subject back then, I would have failed to meet the requirements for the bursary.

Through 3 years of studying this subject, I started to be more curious about the events in the Bible, the background of the stories illustrated in the Bible and also about Jesus himself, what did His actions imply and how He feels on having been born with a purpose of being a sacrificial lamb for His people.

I learned that being a Christian does not mean that life itself will be smooth sailing. Just like how Jesus and the apostles persisted through hardships relying on God, I learned to persist through hard times, relying on God and doing my best at the same time.

So, to my fellow juniors, I pray that you will do well and learn loads of stuff from this subject. All the best .

41 *Michelle Abaigael Mosses studied at SMK St. Mary. She obtained 4A, 1A-, 2B+ and 2B in the SPM including a B+ for Bible Knowledge. She is currently doing A-Levels in Brickfields Asia College.*

I first started attending Bible Knowledge classes when I was in form 3. My initial motive to take up BK was because I had two older sisters who took BK as one of their subjects. Hence, my parents expected the same of me, to follow in their footsteps. At first, it was all about getting good grades. But the more I studied the Book of Luke and Acts, the more I realized they were not just stories, but lessons. Lessons that could be applied in everyday living. I remember one time, when I was so afraid to stand up for my belief. Then, I learnt that all through the bible times, everybody was afraid even Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. But in the end, they knew God was with them and there was nothing to be afraid of because God is in control. Ever since then, I don't feel afraid to tell others about Jesus. I've enjoyed studying BK; it was never a burden or an extra load because I could see God's truth and promises pour out in my life. Even when I'm angry or upset with someone, God's word would just remind me to forgive and love them just as He has loved me. I remembered the quote of my principal "Bible Knowledge is not like any other subjects that needs to be memorized and just throw up on your exam papers. It is the Word of God that gives life to the mind, body, soul and spirit." I didn't understand that until I've experienced it myself. In a nutshell, I believe that whosoever studies the word of God will be transformed and renewed.

42 *Amelia Jong studied at SMK St. Columba, Miri.*

Hi, not ready to face BK exams? Neither was I. I achieved an A for Bible Knowledge in SPM, and I was really shocked. Praise to the Lord for He guides me along the right path. I never regret my decision for taking BK in SPM.

I had no intention of taking BK subject at all during Form

4. I attended Sunday school since primary 2, and my mother would not let me quit after I finished Form 5. So, I learnt BK in Sunday school and never attended BK classes in school. My mother wanted me to take BK in SPM, but I refused. I also refused my teacher in Sunday school who encouraged me every Sunday to enrol in BK for SPM. I felt that 10 subjects were enough to make me stressed out and I had no time for BK.

After that, I had my first BK exam in Sunday school. We were allowed to refer to our textbook for the last 30 minutes, but I did not do so because I wanted to test my ability. When the results came out, I scored 83% and that was the highest mark in class. I beat those who referred to the textbook, and when the teacher learnt about it, she persuaded me to take BK exam in SPM. She also explained that my classmates' school did not allow them to take BK exam at all, so I was lucky that my school offered that opportunity. So that day, I changed my mind.

During Form 5, I started taking BK exams in school. I also joined BK Oral Quiz as well as Faith quiz, and together with my team members, we were able to achieve second place for both. I was able to go to KL and compete in BK Oral Quiz at National Level, and I met a lot of students from other states who worked hard to score well in BK. I was touched and I vowed to do well in SPM. It was really tough learning all 11 subjects (I also took BC) so I prayed and studied hard. God heard my prayer, I did well in BK even though I was tired out by other subjects. It was a miracle that BK exam was on the same day with Mathematics and not Sejarah!

In conclusion, I hope that all Christian students will take BK for SPM. Do not worry about what grades you might get in SPM, for learning the Word of God is much more important than anything else. Trust in God, He will provide

everything for you and has already planned your future. So juniors, work and study hard. Flip your Good News Bible now and search for Luke 12:22, read it and ease your worries. God Bless all of you!

43 *Alvan Koh Yeang Kern studied at SMK Bukit Mewah. He obtained 8A+ and 2A, including an A+ for BK. He is currently doing the A-Levels.*

I was one out of two students who took SPM BK in my school and I am thankful for God's faithfulness during that time. Studying Luke and Acts was worth it, and it is something I will never regret. Personally, it helped me to pay attention to little details when reading the Word. Indeed, it wasn't only an academic subject but also a good opportunity to study the bible and grow spiritually. My BK class was open even to those who were unsure about taking SPM BK but still wanted the opportunity to learn. I think this is the unique part about BK - you will need it sooner or later in life.

Amidst the worries of unfair gradings and tricky exam questions, I received a lot of motivation from my BK teacher, Pastor A. Indranie, who taught her students BK while teaching about life. She kept us in her prayers and we have been blessed by her devotion to our small class. Of course, taking part in the National SPM BK Quiz also helped me a lot. It forced me to study!

There's no such thing as not being smart enough to take BK, there is always someone around that can help you. I hope you'll find joy in studying BK, because it is something special! Just give your best and you'll be surprised what God can do! Most of all, remember nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37).

44 *Julian Sya studied at Sri Sempurna. He obtained 6A+, 3A and 1A- in the SPM, including an A for BK. He is currently doing the A-Levels.*

My name is Julian Sya and I took Bible Knowledge for SPM, and believe it or not, I never regretted taking it. I know most people would be asking, why did I take Bible Knowledge, of all subjects? Well, that is an interesting question, and to be honest, I've never really thought about it. I was very interested to learn more about Jesus, and I figured that taking Bible Knowledge would be a good place to begin my journey. In studying the Book of Luke and Acts, I came to know so much more about Jesus, the miracles he performed, the lessons he taught, his sacrifices for us, his never ending love, and the hope that he has given us. For a long time, I thought that hope didn't exist, that it was only a figment of our imagination, but now I know that hope truly exists, and with this hope that I have discovered, I am able to move on from day to day. Was taking this subject easy? Well, to put it in a short and simple way, no. It would be a lie to say that it is easy, but I can tell you that even though it's not easy, it's worth it. I have definitely grown a lot and I'm still continuing to grow. And for those of you who are taking Bible Knowledge, be it this year or any year, I just want to tell you something. When you fall down, get up, but don't ever give up. Nothing worth it ever comes easy. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel, but you won't reach that light if you give up, if you go back to where you started. The only way to reach the light is to keep going, no matter how tough the journey is. The Lord has gone before you, he will be with you, he will not fail you or abandon you. So don't be afraid or discouraged. So, there you go. I hope you enjoy studying Bible Knowledge as much as I did.

YEAR 2014

45 *Florence Chan, Class of 2014, Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur. She scored 7A+'s and 3A's, including an A for BK.*

"You're taking Bible Knowledge for your extra subject? Isn't memorizing the text word for word hard?"

Yes, I took BK as my extra subject, yes it's hard, but taking BK was definitely a journey worthwhile.

On the first 2013 BK class at my church SIBKL, we were asked to share our reasons for taking BK. It was then I thought about why I was taking BK as my 10th subject. I could have very well taken Accounts like many of my friends or even *Geografi*, a subject that I liked since form 1. But thinking of the challenges faced by Malaysian churches and how BK almost died out as an SPM subject further convinced me to make a stand for Christianity in Malaysia. Furthermore, I wanted to honour God as well.

How wrong it was of me to initially think that there was no need to study and memorize the text of Luke well. Since I had learnt those parables and stories in Sunday School or read them on my own before, I thought that skimming through the text was good enough. I did that for the first half of the year but realised that that method wasn't getting me the marks I wanted to achieve and I wasn't happy with my mediocre marks. If honouring God was the reason why I took BK, was my '*chin-chai*' way of studying BK and average grades honouring God then, I thought to myself. No! Honouring God also meant that I had to work hard (which included studying the text properly) in order to produce excellent grades that glorified Him. So that was what I did for my final year exam, and I got my first

A for BK that year.

In form 5, I set A+ as my target for SPM BK and made up my mind to work towards that goal. I studied Acts as how I studied Luke the year before, but I still couldn't remember the text as well as I wanted to. Since I'm a visual learner, I found that making notes in table form and drawing comparisons between people, parables etc. worked really well for me. Changing my study method helped me tremendously and it improved my marks as well. Even my BK teacher at church noticed the improvement in my marks and asked me what I did differently in my preparation for that test. This was a huge encouragement to me and spurred me on to study harder. BK became one of my favourite subjects and I looked forward to studying it.

SPM trials came along, but I still felt that I couldn't remember the sequence of events in Luke and Acts well. So, I tried listing down the main events chapter by chapter to use as quick revision and it worked! This method actually helped me in SPM, as I was trying to recall whether Jesus sent out the twelve disciples or the seventy-two.

Even though I only got an A for BK SPM, but I have absolutely no regrets in taking this subject and it was definitely worth it. BK classes weren't just normal lessons, but it was filled with life lessons and it also shed new light on God's word. My only regret was perhaps not studying consistently in form 4.

I strongly encourage all Christians to take BK for SPM; don't let the task of knowing Luke and Acts by heart stand in your way of taking BK because if you can memorize *Sejarah* facts by heart, you can do the same for BK! Furthermore, you are learning about God's Word which is God-breathed (1 Tim 3:16) and it will be a lamp for your

feet and a light unto your path (Psalms 119:105).

If you are reading this and are taking BK for SPM, yay! Study consistently, hard and smart as it will definitely pay off in the end. If you aren't getting the marks you want or are struggling, seek help from your teachers and friends and pray to God for strength and guidance in studying His Word. You could also try changing your study method, it is tried and tested (by me hehe) and has proven to work. All the best and God bless!

46 *Henry Kuan Phang Sheng studied at SMK Sri Permata. He obtained 5A+'s, 3A's and 2A-'s in the SPM, including an A- for BK. He is currently doing the A-Levels at MCKL.*

God deserves all the Glory. Reflecting upon my BK journey in SPM, I honestly made the right choice of signing up for BK in the SPM even though some say that it wasn't easy to get an A. The first thought that came into my mind back then was, 'If I'm a Christian and do not love God's Word, what makes me a Christian then?' Eventually I attended classes with full enthusiasm but during the process, I somehow began losing interest. At that point, I asked my mom for advice whether to continue taking BK. My mom said, 'What makes you think that BK is not important? You think that all your science subjects are important, in fact God's word is so much more important than all these subjects.'

After that, I was continuously amazed by what God shows me - how important His Word is every time. In the news, there was this incident of bibles taken away to prevent distribution. Those short notices from the news, reminded me not to slumber but be equipped with His Word. My youth leader told me that among all the SPM subjects, she thinks that BK is the most interesting and most satisfying subject to study. As I was reading every chapter word by

word, I found so many interesting things God has to say. My BK teacher says that every work of God has His reasons and he would try to explain it with godly viewpoints. (Thank you Uncle Thiran)

The process of studying BK wasn't a smooth ride. But think of it in another way - God wants you to put effort so that He can bless you. Now, sometimes I can still recall the scriptures that were studied before. When I read about the crucifixion of Christ as I was preparing for SPM, I couldn't control it but cried during the late nights thinking of how much Jesus loves us even though we are not worthy to be with Him, yet He called us worthy. The preparation for SPM was so stressful because you have to study BK along with the other subjects. But during one of my late night BK study, I cried reading Luke and Acts and somehow felt that God's presence was within me and at that point I felt overwhelmed that He won't leave me nor forsake me in my life .

You may be wondering what I will gain from this bible study which doesn't have any market value. You got it wrong because after much stress and studying, God reminded me that throughout my life He will never leave me nor forsake me. That was so much more important than anything else. Reflecting upon this journey, I am overjoyed that God was part of my SPM studying chapter.

47 *Jasmin Pui En Hui studied at SMK St. Columba, Miri. She obtained 5A+'s, 4A's and an A- in the SPM, including an A for BK. She is currently pursuing the South Australian Matriculation at Taylor's College.*

Initially I got the idea to take on Bible Knowledge because it makes sense to do so, following after my brother. However, it is also because I wanted to have a more

intimate spiritual relationship with God even in the midst of my hectic schedule of tuitions and etc. My parents were a little bit reluctant about it at first but later my dad encouraged me to take on the subject.

I'll have to admit, taking on Bible Knowledge in SPM was not easy for me at first. One of the reasons is that you'll have to stay back for the lessons which may be quite dull at times. But I encouraged myself by keeping in mind that God gave us 24 hours a day and it will not hurt to spend some time with Him by getting to know His words. I also believe that it is in His purpose and blessings that SMK St Columba have teachers for this subject. There are students that I know of in other states who wanted to take on Bible Knowledge so much but are not able to, due to the school's restriction of having no teachers to teach this subject.

I have not regretted taking bible knowledge ever since because it really does help me in my spiritual faith especially when I am furthering my studies away from home. Yes, it may seem hard now to score good grades for bible knowledge but it is not impossible. Even so, grades are not all there is to it. I believe that it is not right to think of the word of God as something that is 'pulling' our average grade down when it should be something that helps 'push' our grades up. 'For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding' Proverbs 2:6 NKJV.

48 *Joy Lam studied at SMK Damansara Utama and obtained 8A+'s, 1A, and 1A- in the SPM, including an A+ for BK. She is now pursuing her A-Levels at HELP College and continues to be involved in her local church.*

In my school, BK is a taboo word. Friends either exclaim in

sorrow and dismay if one were to decide to take BK as an optional tenth subject for SPM, or friends would be full of pitiful surprise and horror at such a mad decision! Why so?

I guess it is because people perceive BK as a 'hard to score' subject, what more for those hoping for straight A+s. BK is also perceived as of no relevance for our future academic career. This fear and perception is wide-spread even amongst my Christian friends.

However, at my home front, the conversation is totally different. I remembered my dad commenting that if Christian students do not take BK, who else would? My dad also re-assured me that whatever BK grades I get, it will not matter - what is crucial is the stepping out in faith to opt for BK as my tenth subject. You can say it was my family's joint decision to honour God, placing importance and emphasis in BK as part of my education.

So, I began going for BK 'tuition' in Form 4. With no regular school BK exams, there was no pressure to study hard. I would just "switch on" during BK tuition, and it was off my mind for the rest of the week. The task of studying two full books of the Bible (Acts and Luke) was also too overwhelming, so I procrastinated to even begin studying. By the end of Form 4, I knew I had to start getting serious. I started making my own BK notes. Reading and memorising lines were tough for me, and so I started writing down the Book of Acts in point form. Progress was slow. By about mid-form 5, I realised the real urgency and began to put my heart and mind towards studying BK.

It reached a point when I wanted to study BK even more than the other subjects! I felt like I could apply God's teachings and how He handled situations recorded in the Bible into my daily life. I studied, memorised and internalised the Word. When friends told me their life

stories and struggles, if relevant, a passage from either Luke or Acts would suddenly pop up and I could advise them based on that.

I also started studying BK during school hours, and that caught the attention of some of my curious school mates. Friends would ask what I was doing, flipping through my "Luke" and "Acts" books and asked questions. I had always wanted to be God's light and instrument in school, and it never occurred to me that this would be a way. I never expected my friends to be that curious to the extent that they started asking me questions about who Jesus is.

When I studied in class, I would read aloud to myself, hoping that my friends sitting around me would listen as well! To me, it may be their one and only chance of listening and hearing God's Word. It was a wonderful experience being able to read and study the Word of God freely in school. (The Word of God that I brought to school wasn't in a form of a scary thick or dusty book, but an interesting readable book which my friends didn't mind touching, reading and exploring.)

As I look back, I am awed to see how God has used me and his Word to make a difference in school. I never imagined that BK could make such a big impact to my life and my friends' lives. It showed me how important it was to read and internalise God's word.

By God's grace, I scored an A+ for BK. Whilst happy to have earned an extra A+, I am joyfully thankful to have somehow been used by God to bring the folks in school hopefully a step closer to salvation. Through my results, I hope BK isn't such a taboo word in school anymore!

For His Glory.

49 *Choong E-Luan, studied at Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur obtained 6A+'s, 5A's and 1B+ in her SPM, including an A for BK.*

Taking the subject of Bible Knowledge is not easy. Not even when you have grown up in church all your life ever since you were a babe. Not even when as a child you spend almost every night reading Bible storybooks. Not even when the idea of flipping through 52 chapters of history excites you but bores all your other friends.

It was not difficult for me to take up Bible Knowledge, but it took me a long time to realise what it really meant. It requires an in-depth study of Jesus Christ, which forced me to take a hard look at events I used to pass off as over-read, over-seen, over-familiar Sunday school tales. With that, I found that the living Word of God is always speaking to us - it always tells us or reminds us of the will and heart of God. Certain seemingly trivial details in the text are precisely what shed light on the big picture and bring me to realise what I previously did not know about the Bible. Taking up Bible Knowledge no longer meant that I was merely revising something I already knew, but gradually it became a challenge for me to keep on finding out more about the Word of God and to no longer be ignorant about my own belief.

Dropping Bible Knowledge was an idea I tried not to entertain, yet at times when 11 SPM papers seemed too much to deal with, I wonder why I took on this in the first place. I kept going on with this subject

anyway because I wanted to bring God into my education. In a world where the dogged pursuit of academic excellence is beginning to seem a lot like a form of idolatry, I knew it would be easy to place education at the centre of my life and forget about God altogether. In taking Bible Knowledge, I could spend time and effort in what was a combination of both my education and my faith. In fact, God Himself is the God of education - He is our great Teacher of life. Putting Him in my studies was a way of saying that I would remember Him in whatever I did.

This journey of discovery was definitely not possible if not for the people God had blessedly placed in my life: My school teacher, Madam Irene, who made classes interesting by relating biblical events to real-life spiritual issues; My dearest Ms Moey who tirelessly and meticulously narrated the Bible with a fervent passion for the Lord; my friends whose jokes and laughter added much happiness to my Friday extra classes; my youth pastor, Pastor Yuli who would always listen to me rant about the subject and encourage me to do my best; even my parents who knew almost nothing about the paper but still supported me throughout. These people reminded me that Bible Knowledge is not plainly another subject - it can even bring lives closer to each other!

Life truly is not quite the same with Bible Knowledge. You would know it when you can recite the Lord's prayer by heart. You would know it when you hear a random chapter from Acts being quoted and you can recall exactly where Paul has arrived in which missionary journey. Most importantly, however, you

would know it when you can open up the Bible without cringing at the large amount of text, but you will smile and your eyes will brighten up, knowing that with every new flip of a page, God will be there.

Three students who sat for the GCE O-levels Bible Knowledge (Luke and Acts) share their testimonies.

50 *Caleb from Nobel International School sat for GCE O-levels in 2014. He is now at Taylor's doing A-levels.*

Greetings, BK students! Almost a year has passed since I sat for my final high school exams, and to this day I have only kept 2 books within my reach from secondary school. They are the books of Luke and Acts.

I must admit that despite all my adoration for the 2 books, studying them and toiling over them was never too much fun. While studying BK as an exam subject, the temptation to do less in my study of the Word was often in my mind. But I am so grateful to God and to my dear teacher (who never gave up on pushing and praying for me), that I did not quit. Because in the aftermath of toiling all night, breakthrough happened and the Word of God became truly alive and active in my life.

My time studying BK brought breakthroughs in my personal walk with God that I never expected. The time I spent reading and writing the word of God made me honour His words and that honour allowed it to speak into my life and has since brought me to whole new level. It is truly my prayer for you that you never give up and that you will find breakthroughs in your passion for the Word. Together we might be equipped champions of the Gospel in our nation.

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

All the best!

51 Ng Kuan Yew sat for GCE O-levels in 2014. He studies at Taylor's.

Here are **three valuable insights** I gained from doing BK:

1. The Word of God does come alive

Reading the Bible daily may seem like a mundane routine. Sometimes, I feel bored and I miss out on important truths; and I may just stop reading altogether. But through perseverance, a whole new meaning and perspective may be gained. In BK class, some of the stories in Luke are brought to life. For example, the story of Simon the fisherman who left everything to follow Jesus. At first, it seems like a casual encounter, but upon further reflection, I realise more about Jesus' influential and empowering nature. *He is leading people to Him till this day!*

2. Quoting Scripture in time of need

During BK lessons, we are made to memorize and remember certain key information that may seem insignificant at that point of time. However, these scriptures come in handy especially during my lowest moments. During those times, God brings to mind the scripture passage which I had memorized.

3. The Word of God brings fulfilment

At first, I had to choose between BK or debate training sessions. I tried getting the best of both worlds by attending one hour of BK and one hour of Debate. It was

the BK classes that seemed to bring a sense of fulfilment after every class. There is no regret in the long run for taking BK! BK is worth it.

52 *Nick Yong just finished A-levels at MCKL. He hopes to be an actuary.*

I first started taking BK when I was in Form 1. At that time, I was lost, uncomfortable and reserved in school, hiding under a shell. In the first two years, I realised I lacked knowledge and could not apply the truths found within the Gospels. I missed the significance of the truths. Being gifted with a memory for details was not enough.

In Form 2, I joined a new youth group where I was more exposed to more Scripture. In Form 3, I applied more zeal to BK and grew deeper in knowledge and understanding. During Year 10, when my school underwent a transition into the international syllabus, I briefly took up English Literature classes (which clashed with BK classes) to give it a try. Despite the positive comments on my work, I decided to switch back to BK.

I never regretted that decision and God blessed me with an A*, the highest score in school for IGCSE BK that year. BK trained me to think critically as well as provided spiritual strength and a firm foundation for my personal convictions. In fact, I believe BK helped me to think deeper about life often. I grew to walk strong in the Lord.

It was through seeing the greatness and loving-kindness of God in the Scriptures that I finally realised the meaninglessness in my self-inflicted misery and guilt (being harsh and pinning the blame on myself over things). I eventually surrendered my struggles to God. Today, I live free of such burdens, through the truth of the Living

Word. I journey in the path of God's light with a greater clarity of mind and a renewed purpose.

YEAR 2015

53 *Sherlyn Ng from Penang Girls High School takes us with her on her BK Ride. She is doing the SACE (South Australia Certificate of Education) course in Disted College.*

A recherché roller coaster ticket "A ride of a lifetime" was offered to me. Tentatively, I apprehensively signed up for the ride. With the encouragement of family and friends, I entered and was strapped on the ride "BK journey". The ride was indeed bumpy in the beginning, I got nauseous after looking at my unsatisfying progress and considered backing out (but thankfully did not). No one forced me to stay on but I was reminded that we should "carry our own cross".

Aboard on this "rocket ship" was our humorous and nurturing educator, "Teacher Stella", indeed she was "stellar". Throughout our long trek up, teacher Stella superbly articulates the lessons to us. During the twist and turns, we were constantly challenged to comprehend and memorise the scriptures. Nevertheless with each checkpoint "survived", nah just kidding, it was fun, everyone was generously treated with snacks and goodies almost every lesson. Weekly prayer supplements before class commenced and at dismissals knitted us together. Classes were ever so wonderful and enjoyable.

When the ride reached its peak, it came to a sudden stop, a sudden silence reverberates in the air as teacher Stella gracefully parachutes away. Allowing us to finally stand on our two feet ourselves.

Before we knew it, with a sudden jerk the wheels continued rolling, our heart is in our throat, our stomach

pirouetted with butterflies. The ride plummeted down at full speed as we battled the quizzes and SPM examination, individually but with God and prayers on our side.

Within a batter of an eyelid, we were approaching the end, I shut my eyes and reminisced.

"Amusing memories of us having pop quizzes, laughing at sarcasm being flung around during lessons, long van rides with our own sing song tune back from Regionals in Ipoh, victorious because we all made it into Nationals, then in August....boarding plane reading the Scriptures, presidential moments when we alighted the plane, awestruck feeling as several hundreds of BK students in our nation gathered for the 19th National Quiz, then later - conquering malls and scampering around the streets of KL in the pouring rain after competition, and finally only two of us scribbling furiously in our big school hall during SPM."

It all came to a halt.

I got off the ride, congratulated with a flurry of hugs whilst I was unexpectedly awarded with a certificate "A+" in BK. I smiled and wore it with utmost honour, knowing that my Father in Heaven was smiling on me and my name was carved onto his palm. "Rather be glad because your names are written in heaven." -Luke 10:20

The recherché ride is here. It's your turn now. What are you waiting for?

54 *Chuah Chee Song studied at SMK Tinggi St. David, Melaka, currently doing the AUSMAT programme at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur, scored 8A+, 1A< 1A- for SPM, including an A+ for BK.*

On hindsight, my motivation to take BK was more of an intellectual push rather than a spiritual one. As a leader in the school CF committee, I joined BK related events to be 'an example' to encourage others to join in. I did it out of a sense of duty, being a Christian in Malaysia. I did it 'for the experience'. I did it for the company and fellowship among friends. Besides, who would turn down a day trip to KL with a whole busload of your friends for the August National BK Quiz?

There are more reasons I can think of that were not necessarily bad or wrong, but I think I nearly missed the point. I did BK for selfish reasons. Often, it took a Sunday sermon with a scripture passage taken from Luke, Acts or Genesis to point out the lessons that could be learnt from the BK texts. Even then, those lessons would be forgotten within a week of hearing them. I was relying so much on my own strength, putting God at the back of my mind. He was not my priority. He was not my main source of strength. Despite that, He was still so gracious to me. It was easy to take this faithful God for granted. I was struggling in my walk with Him. Even though outwardly everything was going fine. I was not living my life for Him.

What I want to say is—take up SPM BK! You don't have to wait till Form 4, or even be sitting for SPM for that matter - just join a class. You may be considering BK for a few reasons. But let your main reason be for God. The words in Luke and Acts will be a great guide and compass for your life, letting you know more about who God is. There are great role models for us among the characters that show up in the two texts.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, GNB) In addition, BK lets

you go deeper into the background and historical context of the New Testament. (Think of it not only as a much better version of Sejarah, the Bible is TRUE Sejarah).

SPM BK lessons are also an avenue for you to be sincere and upfront about Christianity. Don't be afraid to question, lest your faith ends up being merely a blind and uninformed faith. Real enquiry helps us "know how to give the right answer to everyone" (Colossians 4:6b, GNB).

BK can really help spur our spiritual growth. Take BK with the intent to "renew your mind", the "mind" which encompasses not just your brain, but your heart, spirit and entire being. (Romans 12:1-2). I must also add that I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying BK, and hopefully you will too.

55 *Edwina Joyce Sebastian from Temerloh scored an A in BK, 2015. She is in the Matriculation Course in Gambang.*

Studying Bible Knowledge for SPM had been both a challenge and a blessing for me. On the one hand, I had to study one more subject. On the other, I was given the chance to understand the Word of God from a different angle. It also really helped me spiritually as I found comfort from the texts in Luke and Acts especially during the hectic and stressful time preparing for the SPM. In my opinion, the Word of God should never be neglected, no matter how busy we may be.

56 *Julian Yon studied at the Methodist Boys School, KL and obtained 9A+ and 2A in the SPM, including an A+ for BK. He is currently pursuing his A-Levels in UCSTI.*

As I look back at my last 2 years in high school, I realise how much BK has changed me. BK not only requires

diligence and discipline, but it also requires perseverance and prayer. Before competitions and exams, I would sometimes wake up at 5am to refresh and memorise the verses. There were times when I felt like giving up as there was just so much to memorise, but through God's strength and coupled with encouragement from my friends, we persevered together and all the effort is definitely worth it. I really miss the days where we would test each other on the books of Luke and Acts, that was really the best way to learn and encourage each other. For me, BK isn't a one-man journey, it's brothers and sisters in Christ spurring one another to keep studying God's Word and applying it in our daily lives.

Besides these good traits, BK also has helped me in my spiritual walk with God. "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Many of the parables and teachings of Jesus from the book of Luke still stays fresh in my mind till this day, and I'm constantly reminded of the fervency of the apostles as they bring the Good News to the whole world in the book of Acts! Not to mention the many stories and testimonies that were told by my teachers, and these remind me of how marvellous God is.

Learning BK has definitely been a journey that I would cherish forever. I am forever grateful and thankful to my BK teachers, Ms. Moey, Miss Karen, and Mrs. Lim as they have sacrificed much to deliver God's Word to my friends and I. Ultimately, all glory goes to God for this incredible journey! My challenge to all those who are still considering to take up BK, just do it and be prepared for an unforgettable journey that God will take you through.

57 *Marcus Lee from SMK Seafield scored B+ in BK last year. His short testimony shows a very grateful heart.*

I have always wanted to take SPM Bible Knowledge ever since I heard of it, which was when I was a lot younger. And my parents supported me. It didn't matter to me whether BK was going to be easy to score or not. I took the subject to learn more about God!

Throughout the entire two years studying BK with Miss Ong as my teacher, I have truly been blessed. I have learnt many things and was able to study in depth the 2 books written by Dr Luke. In addition to all of that, I managed to know about the historical setting of Israel during the period of time when Jesus Christ was alive and the period after.

I am really thankful to Miss Ong Saw Hoon for her time and effort giving free BK tuition to me and anyone else willing to take the SPM BK exam. Thanks to my parents for their encouragement as I took the exam. Last but definitely not least, I'm thankful to God for giving me the strength I needed to last through the entire SPM year!

58 *Alicia Sabrina Gomez from Sri Sempurna International School obtained 5A+ and 5A, including an A+ for BK She is currently doing the A-Levels program in MCKL.*

Bible Knowledge is the strangest (you memorize stories about random bearded men!) and toughest subject in the SPM Examination. It's not like Biology or Sejarah, where you can practice past year questions and still scrape through the exam with a decent A. In a world where As and A+s are everything, Bible Knowledge is a taboo among students. It demands hard work and requires plain rote

memorization, it takes up hours upon hours of your time- yet despite all that, I still decided to bring this upon myself.

The National Postal Bible Knowledge Quiz was a compulsory event in my school. It was through this "nasty" dealing from my school's management that I was able to experience the Bible in a whole new light. The Bible was always something super holy to me, and I always felt that studying the Bible was for pastors and theologians, not for a 17 year old to attempt at SPM level.

As the end of 2014 approached and finals were round the corner, I started to panic. I had not been studying as consistently as I should had been for Bible Knowledge as I had focused all my energy on the other subjects, and I had an epiphany one day that I was very, very far behind. I managed to pull through by God's grace at the eleventh hour, after I remembered reading in one National Bible Quiz testimony that Bible Knowledge required attention and care like every other subject, but the reason that set it apart was because you were studying God's Word.

So, a tip for those who decided to join the BK club, if you are thinking of dropping the subject, DON'T.

HANG IN THERE. I've been there and I can honestly tell you that if you have reached that stage, it means you're already more than half way to the finish line. And for those of you who are thinking of dropping this subject because it reduces your chances of getting an A+, DON'T, because think of it this way, if you are worried about not getting an A+, it shows you're a pretty bright student (because most people just worry about passing), so don't you want to honor God using His gift of academic ability? I can assure He won't fail you.

59 *Joshua Chin from Sri Sempurna, KL scored A+ for BK in 2015.*

To be honest, taking BK started off as an obligation as my cousins and siblings before me had taken it. Little did I know that there were strong lessons and experiences I would gain from the subject. Besides having a teacher who always put in back-breaking efforts to help us understand, my classmates and I knew we had a God who had a reason for the twelve of us to take up the subject.

As much as each lesson was like a story telling session, it was truly a story written like no other. I did sometimes question the need to memorise the verse so specifically but in the end I thank God for the experience and the adventure that came with it.

BK is not a subject to just add another grade for the SPM. It is a golden opportunity to understand what God did and said through His son Jesus Christ. I gained understanding at a deeper level. Studying BK will always be a blessing.

60 *Kayla Ng Chun Rui from SMK Kota Kemuning scored A- in BK last year.*

BK lessons have been a great experience for me. I gained a deeper understanding of Luke and Acts. It included some knowledge of the Roman Empire and the nation of Israel under their rule. I learnt the reasons for the speeches and careful records that Luke made.

It was not just reading some material for an exam. I "visited the first century"....Jesus Christ was on earth then! I found Paul's missionary journeys meaningful and interesting.

I got to pick a thing or two to apply to my life.....values and

principles God wanted me to learn or strengthen.

61 *Joel Tan Hui Jie studied in St David High School, Melaka, and is now in Form 6 in SMK Gajah Berang, Melaka. He obtained an A+ for BK.*

The five of us in our Form 5 year , met twice a week for BK - once in Auntie Jagan's house, where she carefully passed down her experience, did revision of past year BK papers and made sure we were able to finish studying according to the time schedule. Even though we were from different schools, we also decided to form a study group so that we could encourage and spur one another to study as well as to discuss matters relating to our school Christian Fellowships.

Looking back now, we did learn some self-discipline and how to make use of our time. BK was a good way to help us study God's word, as the textbook has lots of useful information, and questions that help us check to see if we understood the text.

Personally, Bible Knowledge has given me a better understanding of the New Testament. I personally had struggled with the idea of Paul being an apostle of Jesus, because he only appeared after Jesus had ascended. Why were there more of Paul's instructions in letters than Jesus' words? Furthermore why is it that Paul constantly had to defend his apostleship in his letters? Those were questions that I had, so I just had to see for myself what was written about this man in Acts .

As you may know, half of Acts is about Paul, and it is interesting, really, how he met Christ, how he escaped many persecutions, and even underwent a shipwreck and finally was bitten by a snake! To answer the question of Paul's apostleship, the most significant issue was that the

apostles themselves accepted Paul as one of them. In Acts 15, there was a meeting where all the apostles and elders met together and Paul was there! Surely, they wouldn't have allowed an imposter in their midst, as even Ananias and Sapphira who told a lie, had to drop dead. So I had one burning question solved, and now I am able to appreciate Paul's letters better. I want to follow the example of Christ just like Paul says in 1Cor 11:1, " Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." And Bible Knowledge has helped me in this. ! I really enjoyed studying BK, except for memorizing the names of the geographical places especially of Paul's missionary journeys!

So if you are considering taking BK, hey why not? Just be sure to count the cost, as Christ told in his parable, though in this case, not the cost of following him, but the cost of taking Bible Knowledge. I can assure you, it is well worth it.

62 *Elvieka from SMK St Columba, Miri, 2015, BK candidate*

Bible knowledge was one of the hardest examination subjects I ever sat for but I never did once regret my choice. It helped me grow a lot spiritually. To balance my time between studying Bible Knowledge and doing worldly stuff was hard. I almost dropped the subject in my second year. However, my determination to continue was high despite the hardship having to cope with the subject. Reading and understanding the Word of God, motivated me whenever I was emotionally down . This is because I learned that God will never forsake me no matter what and that is His promise. It might be a hard subject to take but it was a great opportunity to learn deeper about the Bible. I never regretted challenging myself to take Bible Knowledge. Even though my result wasn't that good in SPM, it doesn't really reflect my spiritual growth. Walking through this journey, I was able to get to know how truly

compassionate our God is and I am very blessed to know that.

63 *Andrea Jeysing from SMK(P) Sri Aman, PJ, obtained A+ for BK in 2014. She is in the International Baccalaureate Program in Taylor's College Sri Hartamas.*

Taking Bible Knowledge for the SPM examination was certainly a decision that I will never regret. I took it as an extra subject on top of the 9 subjects subjects in the pure Science stream in my Form 4 and 5. I made this decision to take BK because my elder sister encouraged me to do so after having taken it herself. Also, I was genuinely interested in the subject myself and so I started attending classes with Ms Moey Yoke Lai early in my Form 4 year.

I was always reminded of the value of studying BK by Ms Moey and to take the subject seriously because this subject was God's Word. What I really liked about BK was that we got really deep into the Word and we studied the background history of the biblical times in Luke and Acts. This really deepened my understanding of the Word and to this day, I still find myself applying this knowledge in explaining the Word to others when the time called for it. For me, I found that of all the 10 subjects, the one that really made the most sense to me was Bible Knowledge. I felt so blessed and encouraged after my weekly BK classes.

A good grade for the subject requires a great amount of work. It meant memorising the text of Luke and Acts when it came down to the real deal of things. This was another really awesome opportunity to study the Word of God in great detail and it was such a rewarding experience. Memorising the Word of God is so important and I am glad that I had the opportunity to discipline myself to memorise the Word to do well in the exams. I know that

many students view SPM BK as difficult. Perhaps they are unwilling to put in the work to do well. It is hard work that is totally worthwhile. God sees our efforts and rewards us for it. I was extremely blessed to have such an amazing BK teacher like Ms Moey.

Overall, it was the process of learning Bible Knowledge that strengthened my spiritual life. The fact that it was taken as an exam only motivated and pushed me to take it more seriously. However, I feel that the grade is not what matters but only the experience that truly counts when taking this subject. I pray that all christian students will be encouraged to take up SPM BK and bring glory to the name of the Lord. We study His Word and get to know Him more and more!

64 *Mercy Linda Joseph obtained Grade A- in 2015 SPM.*

This is my testimony about God's grace and mercy. Since primary school, I had not been a studious person, but amazingly I would always score in my public examinations. I didn't aim for specific results but would pray to do my best, asking God to give me what I deserve for the effort I had put in. Proverbs 14:14 - You harvest what you plant.

From young I wasn't good in Bible studies either. At the age of 10 I started to attend a different church and it was there that God made me to shine for Him. I began to take part in Sunday school even more. In Form 1, I got to know about Bible Knowledge through my Sunday school as they carried out the Postal Bible Knowledge Quiz. I sat for the Postal quiz and obtained 65%. This may be a moderate result but for me at that moment it was a big achievement as I had never done so well before. I was greatly encouraged.

Later on, I continued to take part in Postal quizzes and the

National Bible Knowledge quiz. Each year God continued to bless me in ways I didn't deserve.

During Form 5 in 2015, I went through terrible stress and was always down and distressed. I began to realize that I was unable to cope with my science subjects and BK. I eventually gave up and started to drop out of studies. I always felt that Bible Knowledge was an extra talent I had within me and failing it for my SPM trials was so unexpected.

However, God placed wonderful people in my life during my time of distress to uphold me and guide me. One of them was my Bible Knowledge teacher, Mrs. Janet Tevaraji, who never gave up on me and continued to motivate me. My hope and expectations for my SPM results were so low. However, my Loving Father in heaven never let me down. He gave me such amazing results which were unexpected. I now know that taking Bible Knowledge despite all the pressure actually pleased God and He blessed me. I obtained 4As including A- for Bible Knowledge. It was truly God's great mercies and grace for which I will always be grateful. I now know why I was named Mercy. Praise and Glory to the Lord who gives us the victory!

65 *Dona Supand, SMK St Columba Miri, 2015 BK*
Candidate

Almost everyone around me was shocked when I wanted to take Bible Knowledge as one of my SPM subjects. Like everyone else, I was hesitant on taking it as BK is known as one of the toughest subjects. I wondered what I had got myself into, especially when I was briefed on the BK syllabus and the structure of the examination.

However, I decided that I would work hard on the subject and do my very best. Taking BK classes has given me a

detailed and greater understanding of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as the Acts of Apostles.

Before joining BK classes I used to question the purpose of it all. Why do I have to memorise this text? Isn't it enough that I understand the message? I finally knew why after I finished my exams.

Studying and understanding the books of Luke and Acts really made an impact upon my life. It would not have, had I not read them often.

BK is a subject worth taking. It doesn't matter what results one gets for BK in SPM. It's more than just a subject, it is the Word of God.

66 *Elise Kong Xin Yuan studied at SMK Convent, Sitiawan. She is now studying in AIMST, Kedah.*

With God's grace, I achieved 5A+s and 5As for my SPM including BK.

Praise God for He has done great things for us, and we are glad. (Psalm 126:3) Some people wonder what prompted me to do it. Well, Jeremiah 29:11 spoke to me. I know that God's purpose in my life is good. So, I trusted him and took Bible Knowledge. Discouragement from certain people only served to drive me to take up the challenge and cling onto the Lord's plans for me even tighter.

I thank Mr.Tan Ying Kee, my BK teacher for being a humble servant of God. He is down-to-earth and was the only one to volunteer to teach me. So, I thank God for sending His servant to Sitiawan. I am grateful to my mother who sent my brother and me for weekly classes and for supporting our interest in SPM BK.

What kept me going? It wasn't easy taking this journey with the Lord. There were some moments when I regretted my decision. However, I knew that His promise is sure and I did not give up on whatever I started. He would provide me a perfect and wonderful ending if I persevered.

Week after week, my mind is saturated with the thoughts of God. I remembered being touched when reading about Jesus calling Levi to follow Him. Levi never hesitated, he got up, left everything and followed Him. Levi's action inspired me to let go 100% of whatever that was holding me back from studying hard. So I let God lead me throughout the whole process. He is in control of everything. And I learnt to submit my worries, doubts and burdens to Him.

It was hard to juggle all 10 subjects. The only way was through prayer. Church members laid hands on me to pray and somehow I felt lighter and freer from the bondage of fear afterwards. (Psalm 50:15) Hallelujah! Only believe, all things are possible only when you trust in Him. (Proverbs 3:5-6) (Jeremiah 17:7) Jesus' words in John 14:14 stayed with me throughout the exam season: *'If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.'*

For me, taking SPM Bible Knowledge was on my bucket list since it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I believe it is a magnificent way to glorify His name. Taking SPM BK was my responsibility as a Christian citizen. Moreover that are benefits of an in-depth knowledge Bible text. It drew me nearer to God. Hard times developed in me a stronger and firmer relationship with the Lord. His words alone gave me the sense of security that I needed in my hectic life so that my heart would not faint because of fear. Fear often got the best of me. But Psalms 27 gave me great assurance

that I needed to have faith and trust only in Him.

The bonus point of honouring the Lord as a student is the beginning of wisdom! Is He not the giver of life and everything else in the entire universe? He will bestow favour and honour. *No good things does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.* (Psalms 84:11)

67 *Carly Teh En-Ai from MGS Penang. She completed IB in Uplands and hopes to go overseas to do law.*

BK started out as just another subject to take to get another A. But when SPM ended, God had revealed to me things that deepened my understanding of Luke and Acts. I also learnt the techniques used to memorise verses, ie comics! I grew my love for Him. I am so grateful for all that He's done for me.

Blessed with the guidance of teachers and help from friends, doing BK was like a gift from God for which I am, without a doubt, exceedingly grateful.

68 *Vivienne Ng Yi Wen from Penang is doing Monash University Foundation Year in Sunway College.*

I am currently studying in Sunway college and I took BK 2 years ago in my SPM, 2014. I heard about SPM BK from a church member. He was very passionate about BK and he encouraged me to take this subject. After consideration, I made this brave decision to take BK. Some of my classmates were interested in taking BK too, but I was the only one who actually signed up for BK.

I faced a lot of challenges, academically and psychologically. I had to manage 11 subjects all at once and my headmistress was not keen on my decision to sign up BK.

Nevertheless, I persevered through it all and God multiplied my time just like how Jesus multiplied the 2 fish and bread to feed the multitude.

On the day SPM results was released, I couldn't believe my eyes as God has blessed me with 10As and for Chinese, the subject which I least expected, an A-. It is therefore proven that when I seek God's kingdom first, He will bless me with more than what I need.

After high school, I entered college in Penang and I was interested in joining a Christian fellowship. However, there was no existing CF. I gathered my friends and told them about the idea of starting a CF, but no one was willing to step up as a leader. Neither was I. When I was doing my devotions that night, I came across Isaiah 6:8 " I heard the voice of the Sovereign God saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go on my behalf?" I replied " Here I am Lord, send me."

That's when I knew that it was my calling to serve the Lord in my college. By the grace of God, we started CF without any experience. God blessed with us with spiritual growth and also numerically, from a fellowship of 10 to 30 in just 6 months.

Taking BK is a life-changing experience for me and I've realised the significance of the Word of God in encouraging me whenever my faith is tested. The Lord will not put you through something you cannot handle for He knows what you are truly capable of. Step out of your comfort zone and start living a life of faith rather than a life of mediocrity. God has great plans for you! :)

YEAR 2016

69 *Elizabeth Anne Sin studied at SMK Seri Bintang Utara, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur and obtained an A- for BK.*

Learning the books of Luke and Acts every week in class soon became a routine, and I found myself participating more during church sermons as I could relate more to them now. It draws me closer to God and I feel that my foundation in Christ has strengthened. The books of Luke and Acts also taught me valuable lessons such as persevering through prayer and having faith that God has all plans ready and laid out.

It was difficult at first , allocating extra time to study another subject for SPM. But in the end, it was very much worth it.hope more students take up this subject as we need to prove that BK is a subject worth endorsing as an elective in the SPM exams.

70 *Emeleen Michelle Gerard studied at SMK Menjalara, Kepong, Kuala Lumpur, and obtained an A+ for BK.*

God is so faithful. I signed up for the Bible Knowledge paper not knowing what to expect. Only a handful of students from my school had taken it before and not many people are aware that such a paper exists. I was constantly being questioned whether I was serious in wanting to take the paper. Most of the time, my teachers asked me out of concern as there was a senior who took Bible Knowledge for SPM and achieved As in every other subject but failed his BK paper.

Nevertheless, I was determined to take it, not to show off for having an extra subject but simply because I knew I

would learn so much more in depth about God. And true enough, BK class was my absolute favourite class to attend. In the beginning, I was worried as to whether it would be boring because it was basically another history paper and we had to memorize the events that took place in detail; but as I attended the class, I really enjoyed knowing more about what had happened in the past and it has strengthened my faith and love for God. I have never once left BK class without feeling encouraged and empowered even though I was having a bad day.

As I have said earlier, many people tried to discourage me from taking the BK paper, and with it's near-impossible marking scheme, I contemplated whether or not to go ahead with my decision to take BK. However, after praying and thinking about it for a few days, I decided to continue. I concluded that if I was studying to honour God, I shouldn't opt out of BK just because I was worried for my grades as God has me covered and in fact, I would give God greater honour if I were to excel in it in SPM.

God gave me great peace as I entered the exam hall to take the BK paper and although I left the hall slightly worried as to what my results would be, He graciously blessed me with an A+ for my BK paper. I have never regretted taking BK because through thick and thin, God has been pruning me and stretching my capacity to have faith in Him and to stop setting a limit to what He can do.

71 *Rosamund Koo studied at SMK Seri Bintang Utara, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, and obtained an A+ for BK.*

In Bible Knowledge class, I learnt more about God and became closer to Him. I found out many interesting things the Bible that I'd never known before. For example, how the Israelites despised the Samaritans as they were

not pure breed. But Jesus showed them that they should love their neighbours. He showed love to all people. That is what touched me and led me to love others more.

Bible Knowledge is not just any subject, but a must for all Christian students to have a strong foundation in the Word of God. I believe that through Bible Knowledge, we can not only grow and mature in our Christian faith, but open our eyes to see the wonderful miracle of life that God has given each of us through Jesus.

72 *Erin Kok studied at SMK Taman SEA, Petaling Jaya, and obtained an A+ for BK.*

I made the decision to take up Bible Knowledge only when I entered Form Five. For that reason, I was behind in the syllabus which consisted of the books of Luke and Acts. Although this may have been a downside, God used this to teach me discipline and consistency, both in academics and the things of God. Through learning BK, I learned more about the Bible in its context and history (which is really rich and interesting!) and about the true meanings behind the many parables told in Luke. This helped me to understand certain things deeper than ever before and allowed me to apply them in my spiritual life.

Another thing I gained from learning BK is the sharing by my teachers of their personal experiences in their walk with God. These things left me thinking deeply, impacted and inspired to go to the next level with God. On results day, I was ecstatic when I found I had been blessed with an A+ in BK.

Though there had been much doubting at the beginning and quite a few moments of worrying before the tests, God has brought me through all of them to the end. God helped me

to stick by my decision to take up BK and even score well in it. He helped me learn the syllabus with no problem although I had started a year late through teachers who are ever faithful. I am reminded of just how good and faithful God is through this whole experience.

73 *Jozhua Ten from SMK(L) Methodist, KL*

Initially, I took up Bible Knowledge as an SPM subject because I thought it was my duty to ensure that this subject would continue to be offered in SPM. I took it up without expecting to score. I thought to myself that I would do my best, but if I did poorly, it wouldn't matter as I would have done my duty.

Bible Knowledge is not an easy subject. It requires lots of commitment, but I did not let this hinder me from pursuing BK. Knowing what happens in the Bible is crucial for my Christian faith. BK helps encourage me to read the Word of God and to know it thoroughly. The fruit of taking BK is both physical and spiritual - I thank God that I was able to achieve an A for BK SPM, but most importantly I thank God I now know what is said in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

74 *Sophia Ganit Karim from SMK Saint Columba, Miri*

In 2015, I made my decision to take Bible Knowledge (BK) as one of my 10 subjects. As I was a pure science student, I was afraid of taking BK because of its high passing grade and stories from seniors who dropped BK stating that it was hard to study.

After obtaining my first BK result, I was not quite bothered as it was my first test and I thought to myself,

'It's okay, if by the end of 2015 my BK results is still poor, I can drop it.'

Mr. Wong, my BK teacher shared an amazing testimony one day. It was about a student who didn't want to take BK for SPM as she feared she would get an A for all her subjects except BK. However, she prayed for God's guidance and left things into God's hand.

When her SPM results came out, she got an A for BK but B for another subject. And thanks to her BK, she managed to fulfil the criteria to apply for a scholarship that she really wanted. After listening to this, I was impressed with how God works in one's life and how great and wonderful He is.

In the trial exams, my marks wasn't great and this made me wonder if I could actually do it. However, the testimony of the girl reminded me of God's love towards us and that I should never doubt Him as He works in ways we can never really understand. Also, He has a plan ready for us all and this really made me surrender it all to God.

Also, after two years of reading and learning about Acts and Luke, I was interested in knowing more about God and wanting to know about all His great works. In the end, though I did poorly during the 2 years of studying BK, I got a B for BK SPM! And I know that this is due to God's grace and love towards me. Through BK, I've learned so many things about God's works and His love towards us. I would say that taking BK is a blessing to me and it should be taken up by all, especially Christian students.

75 *Felicia Bong, studied at Methodist Girls' Secondary School, Melaka, and obtained all As for SPM including BK.*

Shalom! I've always been encouraged from seeing and reading testimonies of candidates who were brave enough to take Bible Knowledge as an extra subject for SPM. So it had also been my dream since I was in Form 1 to take BK in my once-in-a-lifetime SPM Exam. However, knowing that the number of candidates taking BK is decreasing and that it is hard to score in this subject put me in a dilemma.

But I am glad that God has enabled me and given me this privilege to take BK. Yes, it was a struggle at first (even until the end) but it was worth it. Being an average student, I had to cope with 9 other subjects. Taking BK was a little different because one has to study in detail both Luke and Acts and memorize them (which was a bit hard for me because I tend to mix up the incidents and places). Furthermore, being the only candidate in my school for BK in SPM 2017, and never having gotten an A throughout, was pretty pressuring. At times, I doubted that I could score in BK and be a testimony to others. But God is amazing, He placed wonderful people in my life - Mdm Jagan, my BK teacher, Mdm Reeta, my CF teacher, my friends and family who believed in me and who supported me. So I persevered in obedience as I discovered and learnt new things about God and developed a deeper personal relationship with Him throughout the BK journey.

What I want to say is that what matters most is our heart - God sees our heart. And He will honor those who honor Him. I still remember how I was smiling as I walked out of the exam hall after the BK paper, not because I could answer all the questions correctly, but because of the joy of having actually taken BK in SPM. I did my part and studied hard, and God has blessed me with an A, and used me as a testimony in my school and to my friends. All glory to God!

So, if you're reading this and wondering whether you should take BK in your SPM, I would strongly encourage you to do so. Taking BK is not like taking another subject but just as someone has said before, it's an investment for eternal life - and it's worth it!

76 *Jerome Ignatius Yuen Yi Xian*

My parish offers BK classes to students from Form 3 onwards. I only enrolled mid-year, when I developed the desire. By then, the class was halfway through the Gospel of Luke. Luckily for me, my teachers and friends were very welcoming and friendly. My teachers were focused on preparing us well for the SPM BK.

Having prepared myself for 3 years, I was greatly discouraged when my school refused to allow me to sit for BK. They said, if I scored badly, it would ruin the school's reputation. However, a supporting letter from my parish priest, together with a letter written by my father to the school, led to them eventually withdrawing their objection. I was the only candidate in my school.

I am glad to have taken up BK. It was my foundation to develop a better understanding of the Gospel and further strengthen my faith.

77 *Katrina Santha Chelliah*

My journey with BK started when I was in Form 3, where I studied casually. In Form 5, I prayed about it and decided to take BK seriously. I realise that the world today tries so much to renounce the presence of God. How could I say I love God if I could not even give time to learn two books about Him?

As SPM drew near, my principal told me, very clearly, that if I failed BK, she would consider it as me failing in my religion. That was the last straw. From that day onwards, I was determined to stand up for my faith. My school teachers were also constantly checking on my progress as, besides BK, I also signed up for English Literature.

When the results were announced, I scored 11 As straight. I thank my parents, my dedicated teachers and most of all, I thank God for being with me every step of the way and revealing the beauty of His words to me.

78 *Joshua James*

The first thought that came to my mind when I was introduced to BK was, "an extra burden," especially when the classes begin from Form 3, where PT3 was looming around the corner.

During my first year, the Gospel of Luke which I often hear during Mass, began to take on a new perspective. There was a spark within me that made me stay on till SPM and I was determined to pull through.

My BK teachers were very helpful. They drilled into me the names of people, places and details by giving continuous exams, past year questions and quizzes. BK has definitely deepened my faith and has made me more steadfast to face any challenges that life may throw at me. I strongly recommend Catholic students to sit for BK at SPM level as it shapes one to be a better person.

79 *Lim Li Ken from SMJK Triang, Pahang*

When I first learned that there was a subject called Bible Knowledge through my school headmaster who is also a

devoted Christian, Mr Chiew, I was indecisive as to whether I should take it up or not. I was in Form 4 then. To me, choosing to take BK would mean that I would have one more subject to study compared to others. It felt like putting one more burden on my own shoulders.

However, Mr Chiew and my mom kept encouraging me to ponder about it first to see whether I wanted to take up BK. Taking this subject was not easy for me, since I was the only student in my batch who signed up for it. Most of the time I would have no friends to discuss with me.

I thank our Lord, He provided me with a very good teacher, Miss Chee, who taught me in interesting ways. From a Scripture verse, she could explain many things in order for me to know more about God and about Christianity. I shouldn't said that the learning process was easy because every Friday I had to stay back in school while others were able to go back home early and sometimes I had to sacrifice my afternoon nap to study at Miss Chee's house after she retired.

By God's grace and faith, deep within me, I always had the confidence that I could score a good result in this subject. Whenever I encountered pressure or seemed to regret my decision, I would always pray to God, and Jesus would accompany me by my side every time I lost my confidence.

Glory to the Lord that I scored A+ for my BK. By taking BK, I not only learnt more about Christianity, but my personal relationship with God has also become closer. In fact, my results would not have become better if it had not been for BK which had given me one more A+. Actually BK is not a difficult subject if you trust in our God, put in some effort and try your best. God will surely give you the best result you desire for.

When I was young, I used to hate reading the Bible very much because at that time I didn't really like reading and the Bible is so big. I would only go to church, hear the pastor preach, go back home, forget what he preach and live my own life. I felt that reading the Bible was wasting my time because I had a lot of other things to do such as chess, studies, etc. For many years, I was a Christian who seldom read the Bible and didn't really know God's Word and always fell into temptation. At that time, I tried to find something which could fill my empty heart but unsuccessfully. I tried playing computer games, card games and other stuffs which satisfied me only for a short period of time.

When I was in Form 4, during orientation week, my principal called all the Christian students and he challenged us to take Bible Knowledge in SPM. At first, I was not serious nor focused in my BK class but after a few classes, God changed my heart. BK didn't only fill up my empty heart but it also changed my character and helped me stay strong against temptations that I face. I also know more about God. BK is more of an adventure with God. There is one verse in Luke which really struck my heart and it's Luke 21:33 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will never pass away. This verse alone is already more than enough to tell you that you should take BK and study God's Words.

God only sees the heart and not what grades you score in BK. The Word of God is the most important of all at all times. If you take BK seriously, you will be strong in your spiritual growth and it will change your character. It will make you see things in a different way. All the best to all

of you who study God's Word. May your relationship with God grow stronger. God bless you.

81 *Justin Gilbert*

I am utterly satisfied with the recent SPM BK results of SHC (Sacred Heart Church) students which defined the performance of my first batch of students and my debut year as a BK teacher.

The choice to teach BK was rather easy for me as I had journeyed in BK as a student and I felt that I had something to offer the upcoming group of students.

Learning and teaching BK is an enjoyable experience for me. I crafted my own strategies and answering techniques which helped me and the students whom I taught.

With proven excellent results to back up my first year as a teacher, I hope to carry on and be an inspiration to all future takers of this subject.

82 *Shane Lazarus Bateman*

It has been a pleasure these last 3 years to be able to learn BK. I was hesitant at first, thinking I have not much to gain from this subject but now, I realise how wrong I was.

Nowadays, BK is being neglected by students as a subject because they feel that it is very difficult and not worth the effort but, the truth is, it is easy to score in BK as it is based on stories and specific events. During BK classes, I did a lot of past year trial papers. This helped to perfect my answering techniques.

Initially, my principal and teacher objected to me signing up for BK, but thanks to my parish priest and BK teacher who paid a visit to the school, I was given the green light. By the time SPM came, I was ready and answered confidently.

Learning BK has helped me truly understand the works of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, followed by the struggles of Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles.

83 Cheryl Jong Yee Wenn from SMK St. Columba, Miri

Hi everyone! I'm glad that I can have a chance to share my experience when I studied Bible Knowledge. First of all I would like to thank my Bible teacher who encouraged me to take this subject when I was in form 5. Actually we were supposed to start this subject during form 4, but unfortunately I wasn't a smart student and couldn't handle 10 subjects. However, since two of my sisters had set a good example for me and my teacher encouraged me, I finally took Bible Knowledge in form 5.

I still remember my teacher say, "You don't read for yourself but for God, work hard on it and set a good example for the younger ones." I know nowadays students are not interested to take this subject because firstly, Bible Knowledge is very hard to score an A in SPM. Secondly, they are afraid that their marks for Bible Knowledge will affect their average mark. All I can say is, everything is difficult, but if you really put effort into it, God will do the rest.

As James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him." Praise to the Lord, I got an A for Bible Knowledge in SPM. Everything is not too late. If you

think that you do not have much time, start now. If you haven't taken this subject yet, take now. Be proud of yourself that you're doing this for God. All the best yea!

84 *Roshanth Aaron James from SMK St. Columba, Miri*

Now, BK was not an option from the beginning. 10 subjects is a bit much for most people, but I was coaxed into it by a great teacher. And although I was not keen on the subject before, I can now say that it is a subject you will not soon forget, no matter how much preoccupied you might be in college.

To be sure, it is a subject that grows on you. Interest definitely doesn't arise at first. (My second BK exam was my first D in my life.) Having said that, as you go through more and more lessons you start to remember bits and pieces of all the Bible stories you are familiar with, more so in the Book of Luke. And from there, I acquired a passion, a drive to remember these stories, these biblical events as best I could. As much as I can owe this to just about anything, the Spirit does indeed play a role in it. Flipping through the pages of your textbooks or Bible becomes less of a chore, and more of a pleasure.

To conclude, do not be afraid of the two (thick) textbooks that come with the subject. They are only a means to an end. A humbling peace of mind and a great spiritual joy await you at the end of the journey. BK SPM is a great experience for any high school student, and one that is open to anyone who is willing to experience it.

85 *Joshua Chung from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

Taking Bible Knowledge has been one of the greatest and most wonderful journeys in my life. For me, taking Bible

Knowledge is not about adding another "A" in my SPM results but instead a golden opportunity for me to learn the Word of God and to draw myself closer to the Lord. When I first started taking BK, it was not an easy task for me since I was having difficulty in understanding English. I had even reached a point where I thought of dropping BK but by the grace of God, I persevered because "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)

Not long afterwards, I began to experience God's blessings in my life. Not only did I begin to do well in my BK examination but in other subjects as well! My command of English improved a lot as I studied BK. Taking Bible Knowledge was one of the greatest decisions that I have ever made in my life and I have no regrets about it. Therefore, Bible Knowledge is a must-take subject for all Christians because it will definitely change your life!

I also want to thank God for Pastor Teh Chong Lay for his sacrifices in teaching me BK and teacher Evelyn for her encouragement to join the Regional SPM Bible Knowledge Quiz in Sabah which paved the way for me to join the National SPM Bible Knowledge Quiz 2016 in Kuala Lumpur. In preparing for both quizzes, I have learned a lot of major tips to score well in BK for SPM. I thank God I was rewarded with an A- in my SPM Bible Knowledge examination.

To all the BK candidates out there, never give up, keep praying and have faith! For our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be with you and will bless you in ways that you can never imagine. Hallelujah! All praise and glory be to HIM now and forever.

86 *Lee Chen Huo from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

When I was still in Form 1, I heard an announcement during assembly about BK class. When I went home, I told my mother about this BK class. Without any hesitation, my mom allowed me to join this BK class.

The first year, I started BK with the *Gospel of Luke*. In the beginning, I felt BK class was boring. This was because most of the text, like the parables and miracles I had already heard since I was a kid in Sunday school. However, when I started to absent myself from BK class, teacher Evelyn (my English teacher in Form 1), would look for me, asking for a reason why I was absent from BK class.

So, I continued attending BK classes. In Form 2, my only purpose taking BK was to show off to others that I was taking more subjects than them and I still could manage well. I had this pride in me until Form 4. I didn't even know that my purpose in taking BK was wrong. All I was thinking about was to score more *As* than other friends in my class. I was relying on myself rather than on God.

However, when I was in Form 5, things didn't go as I wished. Before that, I could easily complete tasks given by teachers. I found that I could hardly accomplish these tasks in Form 5. I could not serve properly in my school's CF committee and church youth cell group.

Finally, I learned to surrender. I realized I could not do anything without God. I prayed and asked God for forgiveness and power from Him. Miraculously, I was changed. I began to put my focus on God. I saw BK not as an extra subject to show off, but a subject that helped me to know God better by reading His Word.

Praise the Lord that I got an A in my 2016 SPM BK. Studying Luke and Acts has helped lay the foundation of God's Word in my school life. No matter what kind of storms of life I encounter in the future, I know I can stand firm with His help. God's Word is the foundation for my life!

87 *Lo Shi Min from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

When I was in Form 2, I was encouraged by my friend and teacher to join the BK class. At that time, it was quite hard for me as I needed to wake up early in the morning and sacrifice my television time. I even scored only 4 marks in my BK exam even though it was an open book exam when I was in Form 2. So, I began pray to God to ask Him to give me wisdom and also a good memory. God answered my prayer. My marks slowly improved.

In Form 5, I participated in the BK 16 Quiz in Kota Kinabalu. The quiz only tested certain chapters from Luke and Acts. It was not necessary for me to attend study group with mywho needed to study the whole of Luke and Acts for the SPM BK Quiz 2016. But, I forced myself to study with them. Praise the Lord for His, my school principal blessed me with a trip to KL for the National Level SPM BK Quiz 2016 although there was no national level for those who took BK16.

When I was in KL, I was motivated by a Bible verse from Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." I was so motivated to read more of the Word of God. I spent more time reading the Word of God and I scored over 80 marks in the second term exam and an A- in my SPM BK exam. By taking BK, my knowledge about the Word of God has increased and my command of English has definitely improved. Praise God!

88 *Vincent Lee Kok Hoe studied at SMK Taman Desa 2, Rawang, and obtained an A for BK.*

I never regretted taking BK as one of my 11 subjects in SPM 2016, even though I had to sit for the paper alone in the big hall. Instead, it was fun!

When I was still in primary school, my mum taught a few students BK. She told me that the number of BK candidates dropped each year. Seeing how she taught her students out of her spare time really stirred something inside me. It was at that time that I told my mum that I wanted to take BK when I grow up. It was merely a child's talk, but it seemed like God heard what I said and began His plan for me.

As always, when we are trying to do something for God, the evil ones tend to prevent us from doing so. When I entered Form 4, it was time to put my words into action. My mum taught me BK for the very first time, and I slept off in the middle of the class. I didn't intend to sleep but I felt a sense of tiredness inside me. Because of this incident, I doubted whether I should take BK.

And as time went by, it was October and I hadn't even had my second BK lesson! I remember as I was preparing for my finals, I said a prayer then, and a question popped out in my mind, "Why do you want to take BK?" And I answered, "Because I'm a Christian."

Right after my finals in Form 4, I continued my study of the Gospel of Luke. When I went for NSCFLL camp in November, I met a friend named Ian from SMK(L) Methodist, KL. While we were talking about BK, he told me about Ms Moey's BK class in MCKL. And I was thinking, hey,

why not I attend her class too? When I told my mum about it, she agreed to let me go for Ms Moey's BK class to study Acts. It was then that my commuter adventure began.

Riding the commuter from Rawang to KL Sentral would take about 50 minutes, and just as long too when coming back from KL, but I enjoyed my trips a lot as I got to meet new people and talked to them. There was once a Christian college girl, who saw me studying the book of Acts, and she talked to me and encouraged me.

Of course Ms Moey's classes were fun and interesting. I like how she never missed praying before and after the lesson. Besides that, she also never missed revising the previous chapter by asking questions before starting a new chapter. It was worth it as it forced us to do our revision before the class.

My mum also continued to teach me BK every Sunday after church service on the Gospel of Luke, together with my church member Amanda Ow, who was also a solo BK candidate in SMK Rawang. She decided to take up BK when she was in Form 5, spending only 11 months to study both Luke and Acts.

To wrap up, is it really because we are Christians that we are encouraged to take BK in SPM? Well, BK is a very good way to bring us into a closer relationship with God. Many students might say that they are afraid of not getting good results for BK, but I believe that it is our attitude towards the Word of God and the amount of effort we put in that will make the results different. When we do our best for God, He will do the rest for us! Amen?

89 Dharmendra Nair from *The Dwelling Place, Selangor*

I would like to say "thank you" Ms Kua and the organizing committee who have worked hard for these quizzes all these years. I have been blessed even as a participant back then in 2008 and 2009 and now as a BK teacher. The BK quizzes helped me to prepare for the exam and to do well in BK paper in the SPM.

It is really an honour to encourage the young people to read, understand and memorize the Word of God. The quiz helps us to see details which we often times don't notice. And it's really important to read the details in the Word of God as the Lord commands us to study His Word.

As a teacher, I have been blessed tremendously as I reread both Luke and Acts. And my heart is filled with this passion to see more young people to take up BK. I am praying that God may grant me favour so that I can encourage churches in my area, Hulu Selangor to take up BK.

I will get my students to come for the Quiz in Assunta. God bless all of you tremendously.

YEAR 2017

90 *Alyssa Yoong Chia En studied at SMK Puchong Utama (1), Selangor and scored an A- for BK.*

I praise the Lord for His numerous blessings - loving parents, supportive friends, understanding teachers, the wonderful Auntie Heng Chan and Mrs Loh who were fantastic BK teachers and lastly, for the unexpectedly splendid SPM results I received.

Throughout my Form 5 year, studying Luke and Acts was a great way to continuously build a strong, godly character and be reminded how God is faithful to me even in the toughest situations.

Even though there were distractions and challenges as one of only three students taking BK in my school, I never ceased studying God's Word. So if you are reading this, there is no need to fear taking BK as Romans 15:4 says, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

91 *Low Chee Pang studied at Methodist Boys' School, KL, and scored an A+ for BK. He was National Champion at the BK Oral Quiz 2017.*

In my opinion, the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are the best books for Christians and people who want to know more about God. In Luke, we learn about Jesus' birth, how He lived on earth and most importantly why He died on the cross for our sins. In Acts, we learn how the apostles spread the gospel to other people, not

only to the Israelites but also to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth. One event which touches me is when God changed Saul (a person who persecuted Christians) into the faithful Paul who spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

It is good to take this subject to study in depth and to share the gospel with others. The main reason why we take this subject is because we want to know more about Jesus and learn how to be more like Him. I hope with this, you will be encouraged to read the Bible and know about God. God bless.

92 *Mark Chieng Dih Joon studied at SMK Hamid Khan, Penang, and scored an A+ for BK.*

I was introduced to Bible Knowledge by a teacher in Form 4. At that time, all I knew was that it was an extra subject and it required a lot of memory work like Sejarah.

Later, I found out that BK was not an easy subject to take because it requires accuracy and precision in answering the questions. My BK teacher taught us with great enthusiasm and cheerfulness. Studying BK has taught me to be more consistent in reading the Bible and trusting God knowing that He will make all things possible and I just do my part.

If you are reading this and have doubts whether or not to take BK as an extra subject, I truly believe you should do so. This is the best way to testify to others how great our Heavenly Father is - all glory to Him.

93 *Matthew Chieng Dih Yoon studied at SMK Hamid Khan, Penang, and scored an A+ for BK.*

I had heard about Bible Knowledge and had a passion to take it. Unfortunately it was not easy finding a teacher. But God answered my prayer and I was able to attend weekly BK classes in Penang Christian Center (PCC).

The road was bumpy in the beginning as I was new to BK. However, our wonderful BK teacher, Mrs Stella Pan turned BK into a fun and interactive way of learning it. She has many cool ideas for teaching us. For instance, BK class graduates are invited back to help to do a sketch on the book of ACTS while encouraging us to continue to persevere in BK. In addition, tasty snacks kept us energized after learning BK for 2 hours. Moreover, snacks were also our rewards when we did well in our quizzes. In this way, we stayed competitive while learning and sharing our knowledge.

Looking back, I have no regrets taking BK as my extra subject in SPM. Although it is challenging, I want to inspire younger students to take it up. We just need to play our part and GOD will do the rest.

"The heart of a man plans his ways, But the Lord establishes His steps." Proverbs 16:9.

94 Myra Yap Mui Leng studied at SMK St Patrick, Tawau, Sabah, and scored an A- for BK.

I got to know the Bible better through BK classes and Pastor Teh who taught us BK also taught us to live a true Christian life. The guidebooks used have these little sections called 'Handles' where young students like us are guided through life, dealing with problems and staying close to God. I made many new friends in BK classes because there were Form 3 - 5 students in my BK classes. The benefits I obtained from BK classes will stay with me

all my life as the Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light for our paths. BK classes also brought me closer to God because in the midst of a hectic school schedule, I made allowance to learn God's word.

I had the privilege of joining the annual SPM BK Oral Quiz too. The quiz tests various aspects of our understanding and memory. It was a thrilling experience to compete with students from various schools. Besides, I learnt team work as we were teamed up with a partner to work out answers for certain sections in the quiz.

Try BK classes today, you'll never regret it.

95 *Ngim Su Juen studied at Convent Holy Infant Jesus, Melaka, and scored a B+ for BK.*

My experience with Bible Knowledge as an additional subject in SPM is one of the most enriching experiences I've had.

When I was in form 4, I decided to take up BK, without really knowing what I had signed up for. Anyway, I attended classes weekly with a group of friends from different schools. Being a state representative in gymnastics and a Queen's Guide, I had to prioritize my time and BK always got the brunt of it, resulting in below-par grades. During SPM, I wasn't as prepared as I wanted to be for BK but I committed everything to the Lord to guide me. I missed getting straight As because of BK but the knowledge imparted to me cannot be measured.

Being the only one from my school to take BK, my friends often asked me about what I was studying in BK. I then realised that taking BK wasn't just about getting an extra A+ on my SPM cert. It was a great way to share my faith

and the Bible with my friends in school. Additionally, BK has given me a greater insight into the Bible and the Bible stories I thought I was well-versed with since Sunday School. Certainly, there's always something new to learn from the Bible.

I would like to thank my dedicated teachers, who never stopped encouraging me, my parents and brother, who have always been there to support me and my friends, for the support and amazing fellowship along our BK journey.

96 *Samuel Lim studied at St. David's High School, Melaka, and scored an A+ in BK.*

BK is not taken by everyone but everyone needs Bible Knowledge. After PT3, my parents encouraged me to take BK as a subject in SPM. I had a choice to decline but God had placed a desire in me to know more about Him and so I started going for classes in my church.

The next year, I joined teacher Jagan's class every Saturday. I started with high hopes but in the mid-year exam, I got a C. It was the same for my trial exam. Again, I questioned my decision for taking the subject, and I questioned God about His plans for me. I did my part in studying to get the best result possible but I just couldn't achieve it. I paid attention in class and I prayed before each test. I went to church every weekend but there was no improvement. I had every reason to give up and focus on my remaining 9 subjects but then I thought of the main reason I had taken BK. I started regaining the desire to know the stories and lessons in the Bible and to apply them into my life.

I sat for my final SPM BK exam and by God's grace and teacher Jagan's help, I did extremely well. I realised that

if you put God first in your life, there is nothing to worry about. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not worry about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

There are many other lessons to be learnt through BK and it is for you to find out on your own.

97 *Lai Zheng Hong studied at Methodist Boys' School, KL, and scored an A for BK.*

Taking BK instead of Mandarin was something that my family didn't really agree to. But by God's grace, I was finally able to convince my father after 3 months of prayer and hope.

Learning BK is a way to show our love for God, by learning and keeping His commandments. It is true that BK is tough and that it is hard to get an A+ for BK, but we should be grateful that we are able to have the opportunity to study Luke and Acts, especially for some of us who don't read the Bible every day.

With effort and God's grace, I believe that we can score well in BK and all our other subjects because "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 1:7). Most of all, remember that we should rely on God's grace to strengthen us to study hard as well as study smart, because as the Bible says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"(Phil 4:13)

98 *Amy Tiong Mii studied at SMK Methodist, Sibuluan, and scored an A- for BK.*

Taking up BK as an additional subject? Why would one bother to do so despite knowing the chances of getting A+

for BK isn't easy? I decided to take up BK because as a Christian, it's my responsibility to study the Bible.

I intended to drop BK after some time studying it but some verses in the Bible touched my heart and made me gain interest in studying BK. I would like to thank my teachers for making the BK lessons interesting by teaching us to memorise the verses easily using dramas and acronyms. This would be the main reason I continued on and sat for the BK paper in SPM.

I truly enjoyed studying BK with my friends especially when we helped each other with the verse or the key point of each chapter in Luke and Acts.. Besides that, it's amazing as we relate the Bible verses to our daily lives. I strongly encourage more juniors to take up BK. Studying God's Word will really touch your mind, soul and heart.

99 *Britanny Chang Sue May studied at SMK Methodist, Sibu, and scored an A for BK.*

Though calling myself a Christian, I rarely touched the Bible, except on Sundays in church. I realized the need to understand the Bible more and so in Form 4, I decided to take up Bible Knowledge despite knowing I would have my hands full with 12 subjects. Taking BK doesn't mean you would have to be extremely good at it, but as long as you bring a willing heart before God to learn His Word, that is enough.

BK taught me a lot of things. In Luke, I see Jesus' divinity, power and love. In Acts, I see how Jesus' disciples and followers spread the gospel to all people with boldness despite knowing they would be persecuted. Other than that, studying BK makes me feel closer to God. It makes me feel at peace even during the exam season. BK is not

just a subject, it's a weapon granted by God to us, to equip ourselves more even at school. BK is definitely worth taking.

100 *Caitlin Leong studied at SMK Kota Kemuning and scored an A- for BK.*

When I first started studying for BK, I struggled with the 2 books, Luke and Acts. However, the more I analysed and understood the context of each scenario, it helped me to naturally remember them. Studying BK has helped me lay a good foundation on Christ who sacrificed His life for me on the cross and the actions that are needed from me to follow in order to honour Him.

I am really thankful to God and to my BK teachers, Aunty Kun Han and Uncle Michael Fun for helping me achieve an A- for BK in my SPM. As I look back, it isn't about the grade I gained that makes me happy but the assurance of my salvation and the journey I had while learning it.

So, if you are in Form 3 or Form 4, do take up BK as a subject to rediscover new things about the works of Jesus in the book of Luke and the challenges Paul had to go through and how he relied totally on God in the book of Acts.

Trust me, you will be able to come out a better shaped follower of Christ who is steadfast to God in facing many challenges in life.

101 *Chelsea Joy Vilson studied at SMK(P) Methodist, Ipoh, and scored an A- for BK.*

I can easily say that taking SPM Bible Knowledge was the best decision I made in high school although many people

had discouraged me from doing so. It was a decision that changed my outlook on life. With constant effort and having a very dedicated teacher in Dr.Wong, my results gradually improved. I was not one of those students who did extremely well in SPM. However, my A- in Bible Knowledge gave me so much satisfaction and joy. The joy was simply unexplainable. You must experience it for yourself.

To the youngsters out there who are being discouraged from taking up BK, remember, our God did not give us a spirit of timidity but of power. Stand firm, carry your cross and work hard. He will not let you down.

102 *Isabel Andrew studied at SMK Aminuddin Baki, KL, and scored an A- for BK.*

I can easily say that taking SPM Bible Knowledge was the best decision I made in high school although many people had discouraged me from doing so. It was a decision that changed my outlook on life. With constant effort and having a very dedicated teacher in Dr.Wong, my results gradually improved. I was not one of those students who did extremely well in SPM. However, my A- in Bible Knowledge gave me so much satisfaction and joy. The joy was simply unexplainable. You must experience it for yourself.

To the youngsters out there who are being discouraged from taking up BK, remember, our God did not give us a spirit of timidity but of power. Stand firm, carry your cross and work hard. He will not let you down.

103 *Lam Qi En studied at SMK Mohd. Khalid, Johore Bahru, and scored an A+ for BK.*

It is a privilege to study Bible Knowledge. I am proud to admit that studying this subject propelled me to have daily devotions, read the Bible and praise God daily. Learning BK has enabled me to socialize and connect with people. I was also able to put aside the stress from the other school subjects and focus on His words.

Lastly, John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." We ought to learn, understand and meditate on the life of Jesus and His teachings. One sure way of doing it is the consistent learning through the two years in BK class.

104 *Naomi Khoo Xin Yi studied at SMK Methodist, Sibuluan, and scored an A+ for BK.*

SPM is no joke. Seriously. But life isn't either. And that is where Bible Knowledge comes in - to learn more about what still matters after everything on this earth fades away.

Surely we have heard many people present the cons of taking BK as an extra subject in SPM - it takes up too much of your "studying time" for other "more important" subjects, it further adds to your burden, it doesn't help you in your future career, etc. But I still took BK after considering all these, and God did not fail me.

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." This verse in particular has encouraged me along this BK journey. I have struggled, juggling my time among my 12 subjects, but God has seen me through it all. I took BK because I love God and to let unbelievers know how important God is to me, in the hope that they will want to get to know this important God too. I took BK because He

matters that much to me. He spared His life for me on the cross, the least I can do is spare my time to draw closer to Him. I have never regretted taking Bible Knowledge, not ever.

105 *Sheelan a/l Nathan from SM St Mary, Sandakan*

Sitting for BK SPM was scary at first, knowing that I had to cover 2 books, Luke and Acts. Yet, SPM BK turned out to be a splendid experience for me.

By learning BK, I realized that being a Christian is the most beautiful blessing as I get to know the great works of our God, His love and compassion. I also realize that the Bible is the only book whose Author is always present when one reads it. BK has created within me a desire to read the whole Holy Bible.

106 *Iris Wong Feng Jing studied at SMK Methodist, Sibu, and scored an A+ for BK.*

"I don't have a good command of English and BK is taught and tested in English. Would I be able to cope with studying BK in English?" Besides, my seniors also told me that BK is a difficult subject to get an A+ in SPM. I am a Christian and it is not right for me to abandon God's words. So, I decided to take up BK in Form 4.

In 2016, I took 12 subjects in total. At the beginning of the year, I felt tired and wanted to give up. Nevertheless, because of God's grace, I managed to get an A+ for BK in SPM. I know now that with God, nothing is impossible.

I thank God for our teachers for their dedication in teaching us BK. I will never regret taking BK in SPM. I

know that God always provides everything I need. Lastly, I would like to encourage more students to study BK.

107 *Chuah Sze Lyn studied at SMK Sultan Ismail, Johor Bahru, and scored an A+ for BK.*

Taking Bible Knowledge was a very positive experience which I enjoyed. It showed me how God worked in miraculous and mysterious ways throughout Luke and Acts to fit into His bigger purpose. I knew that no matter how I did for the paper, He could still use it for His glory. This experience helped my relationship with God to grow as I rely on Him.

I encourage anyone who is taking BK to have an expectant heart of what God is going to show and do through you because He does amazing things when we step out of our comfort zones with Him.

108 *Grace Lau Yu Fan studied at SMK Methodist, Sibu, and scored an A+ for BK.*

Taking Bible Knowledge as one of my subjects encouraged me to study God's Word every day and to revise what the teacher had taught us. I am glad that I had chosen BK as one of my subjects for SPM and I scored an A+ for it. I also learnt a precious lesson. As long as you honour God and spend precious moments with Him, God will give you what you deserve. Yo.

I have also learnt and grown spiritually through BK. I am very grateful to my BK teachers who sacrificed a lot of their precious time and energy throughout the whole year. They even sacrificed their weekends and holidays for us. Thus, I encourage more juniors to take BK as you would not regret it. With the awesome teachers and God's wisdom

given to all of us, you will definitely enjoy your secondary school life with Bible Knowledge.

YEAR 2018

109 *Abby Natasha Martin from SMK Segama, Lahad Datu*

I was told that Bible Knowledge is a tough subject especially to a student with a poor command of English like me. I spent 3 days praying and seeking God's answer whether to take BK in Form 4 in 2017. With God's guidance and my great hunger for His word, I began the BK journey. I was going through troubles in life but that was the year for me to draw close to God. I struggled again before registering BK as my SPM subject, but God gave me the courage to move on. I found that this subject got harder as I studied deeper in Acts.

However, I believe that taking BK is not merely for a good grade but to have a deeper of understanding God's Word that transforms lives. I even expected to fail in my BK but God was gracious. I'm truly thankful for the 'E' that I had achieved. Others may look down on my grade, but my heart is filled with gratitude for the rich blessing and strength that I have received through learning BK.

Now, I treasure my relationship with God and the fruits of transformation in my life. Praise God for 2018, the first batch of SPM BK candidates for SMK Segama, Lahad Datu, Sabah. Glory be to God.

110 *Estee Chang from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

I started to study Bible Knowledge in Form 4 when I joined SM St Patrick, Tawau, in 2017. During the first lesson, I found out that it was indeed interesting! I remembered I was very nervous when I sat for my first BK test. I was

shocked I could pass with 47%. Thank God for a patient and loving pastor who taught and equipped us well, relating his life experience in his teaching and brought out the truth in God's Word.

Through BK class, I truly felt that I got closer to God and understand the Bible more. In cell group, I could answer questions asked by the leader when no one else could! I also learnt how important it is to have devotion every morning and to put God first. God's Word has transformed my life and my spirit is more sensitive to God especially in the area of sin.

Thank God for giving me 6As, though I only scored a B+ in BK.

111 *Eunice Lim from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

Taking up Bible Knowledge as a subject transformed my life. I was once a quiet person. To take the initiative to make friends was no doubt a difficult task for me. Yet through BK, I was able to widen my social circle. When I faced difficulties, I learnt to open up myself so that we could encourage and pray for one another, just as what the early church had practised according to Acts. Never had I thought that learning God's word would help me to improve in my other academic subjects!

I really thank God that I had a chance to join the Regional and National SPM BK Oral Quiz 2018. It was not easy, yet I could witness how the Lord worked among us. There is an assurance given by the Lord: He will always bless those who meditate on His Word day and night. By God's grace, I could excel in my studies. Thank God for giving me an A in my SPM BK 2018.

112 *Ezra Tan from St David High School, Melaka*

I was in Form 3 when my friend, Nga Tian Ern invited me to participate in the Postal Bible Knowledge Quiz. That's how I got involved in BK. Later, my teacher Puan Grace Teh On Chew encouraged me to take BK for SPM. I accepted this challenge as it was an opportunity to glorify God.

Taking 11 subjects is never an easy task. I spent a lot more time studying BK than the other subjects. In addition, I needed to accustom myself with the English Bible as I was used to the Chinese Bible. I thank God that Tian Ern reminded me to study BK consistently. By God's grace and the help of my teacher Madam Jagan, I improved. During the SPM BK paper, I had flu but God provided me with the strength to hold on till the end. At last, I got an A+ for BK! Without the additional A+, I would only have had 8A+ and not be qualified for many scholarships.

How grateful I am to God for He works in wondrous ways. I strongly encourage students to sign up and do their best for BK. By doing this, you are a good testimony to others regardless of the results. "Just do your best and let God do the rest."

Ezra Tan together with Nga Tian Ern of St David High School Melaka won the National BK Oral Quiz in 2018. Ezra managed to get 9A+ in the SPM exam.

113 *Nga Tian Ern from St David High School, Melaka*

I would not have known about the existence of Bible Knowledge as an SPM subject if not for the BK Quizzes. I am very grateful to God for everyone involved in organising the BK quizzes.

To me, taking BK was not just about getting an extra A+ in SPM. What really matters is how we perform in life instead of how we perform in examinations. Memorising Bible verses in Luke and Acts has proven to be useful, not only in exams, as the Holy Spirit reminds us of God's Word in daily situations.

I really appreciate my dedicated BK teacher, Madam Jagan for her teaching skills and tasty snacks that kept us energised during class. I thank my school CF and friends for always being there to support and encourage me.

BK has given me an insight into the Bible as I have learned not to be satisfied with the literal meaning of parables and the interesting stories, but to dive deeper into the truth of God's Word. It is undeniable that studying Luke and Acts has made a difference in my life.

Tian Ern managed to get 11A+ in the SPM exam.

114 *Hooi Yan Ling from Johor Bahru*

My journey with BK started in Form 4 when I insisted on taking BK even though my school was not very supportive of it. I was rather frustrated and the more they didn't encourage me to take it, the more determined I became to take up the challenge to prove myself to them. Looking back on these past two years, I can now clearly see how God has worked through my stubbornness and weaknesses to help me grow spiritually and be rooted in Christ.

Taking BK was definitely one of the best experiences of my life even though it meant putting in the extra effort to wake up early on Friday mornings for class and spending extra time studying an extra subject. The lessons that I learnt while studying Luke and Acts weren't just head

knowledge but also heart knowledge and they kept me strong even through the tough times when I felt totally burnt out. Knowing that there's a loving Father who's always with me gives me the strength to persevere on.

Truly I am thankful to God for having been so faithful and real to me throughout this journey and indeed taking BK may be challenging, but the joy that comes from knowing more about Jesus makes everything worthwhile.

115 *Samson Lai Chung Hung from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

My experience in taking Bible Knowledge as an additional subject has been one of the best and exciting experiences I've ever had.

I joined SM St. Patrick, Tawau, in 2014. For the first 6 months of my first year, I never knew the school offered Bible Knowledge class. A dear friend and Teacher Evelyn, whom I first met during a Christian Fellowship meeting and who is also a Bible Knowledge teacher, encouraged me to join the class. For weeks I was nervous and scared to join the class until one day I finally decided to attend the class. The road was bumpy in the beginning. I struggled and failed in my BK tests and exams in that first year.

It was hard to study an extra subject, having to remember names and events in the Gospel of Luke and Acts. But by God's grace coupled with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I was able to catch up and scored high marks in BK exams the following year. In 2018, I had a chance to participate in the SPM BK Oral Quiz in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and the National Quiz in Kuala Lumpur. Much effort was put in for these quizzes which helped me in scoring an A- in my SPM BK.

Fear God and trust in His faithfulness. Study hard and smart. God will see us through. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). To God be the glory!

Samson scored an A- for BK in SPM 2018.

116 *Shalom Seng from SM St Patrick, Tawau*

I once was a very lazy girl, having dreams that were unrealistic and I did not have high hopes for myself. But through studying Bible Knowledge, God's Word has shaped me into who I am today.

Thank God for a teacher who encouraged me and sponsored me to join the SPM BK Oral Quiz 2018. At first, I thought it's impossible as I was way behind during the training before the competition. However, the Lord gave me the courage to just believe and have faith in Him. Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Preparing for the SPM BK Oral Quiz was a great preparation for my SPM BK exam.

Once again glory and praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ for giving me an A- in my SPM BK 2018.

117 *Wong Kean Hoe from SMJK Chung Ling, Penang*

At first, I did not know that there was an extra subject called Bible Knowledge. I was reluctant to take BK as an extra subject. But with much consideration and encouragement from my parents, I finally took BK when I was in Form 5. It was indeed hard to cope with 2 books (Luke and Acts) in just one year.

However unlike the other subjects, studying BK has changed my perspective of how I look at things and has given me a hope and purpose of living my life. I gradually realized that the words I read in those 2 books were like a two-edged sword, always rebuking, teaching, correcting, reviving, inspiring and most importantly transforming my life.

It was worth my time reading and studying BK because I will be able to carry the values I have learned throughout my life.

You too will be blessed when you read and study Luke and Acts with a heart!

Wong Kean Hoe scored an A for BK.

Voices from Other Students

"Studying Bible Knowledge has given me the rare privilege of understanding our Holy Scriptures in such intricate detail that it has also honed my skills in critical thinking and literary analysis, both of which are crucial aspects of my everyday life to this day."

~*Gabriel Chua* (2006)

"BK has trained and tested my acuity on deciphering the content of the bible and translate it effortlessly in writing and oral. I couldn't have understand God's word better if it wasn't for SPM BK."

~*Darryl Lai* (2007)

"Studying BK has deepened my understanding of God's Word and helped me grow spiritually. The only subject in SPM that matters unto eternity!"

~*Grace Jerald* (2007), *Church Worker*

"It has been a wonderful and unforgettable journey with our teacher and the boys, learning the Word, analyzing maps, time travelling. We have been through tough times and I don't know how we made it but I think the secret lies in those magical chocolate cakes we just can't seem to have enough of."

~*Joshua Mok* (2012)

"The first few months I had to drag myself to BK class. I guess my heart was not in the right place. But as I studied God's word, He changed my heart. The more I learned, the more I fell in love with Him. **BK became my favourite subject. I was the lone candidate...**it was funny to have 3 invigilators to myself!"

~*Jessica Lee*

"Do not worry what grades you might get. Learning God's Word is much more important than anything else. Trust God. He will provide everything for you. Luke 12:22 Do not worry!"

~Amelia

A Parent's Gratitude for BK

How thankful I am that both my sons signed up for Bible Knowledge as an SPM subject. The benefits are immeasurable and the boys continue to reap them.

My elder son had signed up because he had close friends who were also keen to take the subject, and his schoolmate's parent had offered free classes to prepare the batch of them for the exam.

As the classes progressed, I realised how much good it was doing him. He was learning to dig deep into God's Word. He had a teacher who looked beyond the facts in Luke and Acts, to how it applied in her students' lives. He was acquiring a discipline in studying the Bible and also was constantly urged to apply it practically in his life. He scored an A for the subject. (This have a fee reduction in college). Beyond that, it was a valuable exercise in solid Bible study.

When my younger son entered Form 4, there was no question that he too would sign up for BK.

I considered how much time my children spend remembering the electrochemical series, equations of motion, and sundry other facts in history, mathematics, and so on. Some of these facts may be useful later in life; a great deal of it probably will not be of any use.

How much more should we urge our children to invest time and effort in learning a subject that offers benefits of eternal value. Bible Knowledge has given my sons a head start in hiding God's word in their hearts, and I am ever grateful.

Angeline Soo (Husband Soo Ewe Jin is "Sunday Starter"
columnist in STAR)

*Share this article with your family, church youth and
parents. Promote the subject.*

Information on SPM BK:

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