



# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Exploring what the Bible teaches about God, life and relationships

## A place to connect meaningfully with those who have a different faith or no faith at all in God

### WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The bible is God's path toward a loving and right relationship with him, people close to us and people in the world

Each week, read the bible passage out loud together, and then use the discovery questions to launch a group discussion.

- No one is the teacher. Everyone is discovering bible truths together, therefore various people in the group may take turns being the facilitator, even if they have never studied the bible before.
- Every single person can learn from the bible without previous experience.
- Focus only on the passage or story that is being studied that day. Don't wander to other passages in the bible. Stay on topic.
- It's best not to add new members to the group, once the group has been meeting for a few weeks. However, if the group does grow to more than 6-7 people, it's probably time to start a new group.
- The goal is not to just fill our minds with more knowledge, but to respond with our hearts.

### REVIEW last week

1. What are you thankful for in this past week?
2. What has challenged or stressed you lately?
  - **How can this group help?**
3. Can you summarize the bible passage that we read last time?
  - **What happened when you applied those insights to your life?**
  - **Did you share those insights with anyone else?**

### READ the bible passage

1. Take turns retelling the passage in your own words.
2. What can we learn about God?
3. What can we learn about people?

### RESPOND personally

1. How does this bible passage relate to your own circumstances or relationships?
2. What will you do this week in response to these insights?
  - **If you like, take a moment to ask God to show you what to do.**
3. If something in this bible passage has helped you, who will you share it with this week?

**It's helpful for the group to record responses and prayer requests so that the next time you meet you can update each other.**

## CREATION TO CHRIST

Exploring God's relationship with us

1. **Creation of the world** -- Genesis 1:1-26
2. **Creation of man** -- Genesis 2:4-25
3. **Beginning of sin** -- Genesis 3:1-13
4. **Price of sin** -- Genesis 3:14-24
5. **Universal flood** -- Genesis 6:1-9, 17-22
6. **Story of Abraham** -- Genesis 12:1-9 / 15:1-6
7. **Story of Isaac** -- Genesis 22:1-19
8. **Story of Moses** -- Exodus 12:1-28
9. **The Ten Commandments** -- Exodus 20:1-21
10. **Love the Lord** -- Deuteronomy 8:1-20 / 10:12-22
11. **Man of sorrows** -- Isaiah 53
12. **Birth of Jesus** -- Luke 1:5-38 / 2:1-20
13. **Baptism of Jesus** -- Matthew 3:1-17 / John 1:29-34
14. **Temptation of Jesus** -- Matthew 4:1-11
15. **Nicodemus** -- John 3:1-21
16. **Woman at the well** -- John 4:1-42
17. **The Paralytic** -- Luke 5:17-26
18. **Jesus calms the storm** -- Mark 4:35-41
19. **Demons** -- Mark 5:1-20
20. **Lazarus** -- John 11:1-44
21. **The Last Supper** -- Matthew 26:17-30
22. **The arrest of Jesus** -- John 18:140 / 19:1-16
23. **The crucifixion** -- Luke 23:26-56
24. **The resurrection** -- Luke 24:1-35
25. **Final command** -- Luke 24: 36-53
26. **Heaven** -- Revelation 7:9-17

## TEN STORIES OF HOPE

People in hard places

1. **A way through the roof** -- Mark 2:1-12
2. **The Spirit versus Religion** -- John 3:1-21
3. **Perfume, love and forgiveness** -- Luke 7:36-50
4. **Shame, desperation and healing** -- Mark 5:21-34
5. **Demons** -- Mark 5:1-20
6. **A prodigal returns** -- Luke 15:11-32
7. **A radically changed heart** -- Luke 19:1-10
8. **The trap of wealth** -- Mark 10:17-31
9. **Persistence** -- Luke 18:1-8
10. **A humble heart** -- Luke 18:9-17

## TEN MIRACLES THAT REALLY HAPPENED

1. **5000 people fed** -- Mark 6:30-44
2. **A crazy catch of fish** -- Luke 5:1-11
3. **No longer crippled** -- Luke 13:10-17
4. **Leprosy!** -- Luke 17:11-19
5. **Raised from the dead** -- John 11:17-44
6. **Walking on water** -- Matthew 14:22-36
7. **A dead little girl** -- Mark 5:35-43
8. **No longer deaf** -- Mark 7:31-37
9. **A little boy with an evil spirit** -- Mark 9:14-27
10. **Water becomes wine** -- John 2:1-11

## WOMEN WHO MET JESUS

1. **A desperate woman** -- Mark 5:21-34
2. **Publicly humiliated by men** -- John 8:1-11
3. **Perfume and forgiveness** -- Luke 7:3-50
4. **Many husbands** -- John 4:42
5. **A widow** -- Luke 7:11-17
6. **Distractions** -- Luke 10:38-42
7. **Mourning** -- John 11:17-44
8. **His mother** -- Luke 1:26-56
9. **At his death** -- Luke 23:44-56 / 24:1-12
10. **After he rose** -- John 20:1-18

## LIFE ADVICE FROM JESUS

From the "Sermon on the Mount"

1. **When mistreated** -- Matthew 5:11-12 / 38-48
2. **Trying to impress others** -- Matthew 6:1-18
3. **God or money?** -- Matthew 6:19-24
4. **Worry and stress** -- Matthew 6:25-34
5. **Being critical of others** -- Matthew 7:1-5
6. **What's our life foundation?** -- Matthew 7:21-27

## RELATIONSHIPS ARE HARD

Insights for loving, healthy relationships

1. **Love** -- I Corinthians 13:1-13
2. **Humbly serve** -- John 13:1-17 / Mark 10:43-45
3. **Truly forgive** -- Matthew 18:21-35
4. **Don't be critical** -- Luke 6:37-42
5. **Behaviour and speech** -- Ephesians 4:25-32
6. **Why the conflict?** -- James 4:1-12
7. **Humility** -- Philippians 2:1-11

## FOLLOWING JESUS

What it looks like to live a life of love

### MATTHEW

1. **Love our enemies** -- Matthew 5:43-48
2. **God or money?** -- Matthew 6:19-24
3. **What are you building on?** -- Matthew 7:1-29
4. **Forgiveness** -- Matthew 18:21-35
5. **Go make disciples** -- Matthew 28:16-20

### MARK

1. **Leave everything** -- Mark 1:14-20
2. **Love "sinners"** -- Mark 2:13-17
3. **Love God and people** -- Mark 12:28-31
4. **Expect trouble** -- Mark 13:9-13
5. **Preach everywhere!** -- Mark 16:9-20

### LUKE

1. **Saving your life** -- Luke 9:23-26
2. **We are sent** -- Luke 10:1-21
3. **Don't worry** -- Luke 12:22-34
4. **Count the cost** -- Luke 14:25-33
5. **Pray persistently** -- Luke 18:1-8

### JOHN

1. **Called to die** -- John 12:23-26
2. **Obey** -- John 14:15-27
3. **Bear fruit** -- John 15:1-8
4. **Love each other** -- John 15:9-17
5. **We will be hated** -- John 15:18-27

## WHEN IT'S TOO MUCH

Words for hard times

1. Psalm 23
2. John 14:1-4 / 25-27
3. Psalm 27
4. Psalm 30
5. Psalm 46
6. Psalm 62
7. Psalm 94
8. Psalm 116
9. Matthew 11:28-30

## CONVERSING WITH GOD

Learning how to pray

1. **In secret** -- Matthew 6:5-13
2. **In faith** -- Mark 11:12-25
3. **Knock!** -- Matthew 7:7-12
4. **Persist!** -- Luke 11:1-13
5. **Don't give up** -- Luke 18:1-8
6. **Bold prayer** -- Acts 4:23-31
7. **In the Spirit** -- Ephesians 6:10-20
8. **Powerful and effective** -- James 5:13-18

## CHARACTER MATTERS

Good or bad, our character defines us

1. **The fruit of good character** -- Galatians 5:19-23
2. **Practice good over evil** -- Romans 12:9-21
3. **Perseverance leads to character** -- Romans 5:3-5
4. **Pursue these things** -- I Timothy 6:11-21
5. **Set an example** -- Titus 2:1-8
6. **Do not conform to this world** -- Romans 12:1-2
7. **Choose your company** -- I Cor 15:33 / Prov 13:20
8. **A different nature** -- II Peter 1:5-15
9. **When you are tempted** -- I Cor 10:13
10. **Lives that glorify God** -- I Peter 2:9-17

## OPPOSITION & HARDSHIP

It's normal; expect it

1. **From family** -- Matthew 10:16:39
2. **It's inevitable** -- II Timothy 3:10-12
3. **It's our privilege** -- Philippians 1:12-30
4. **Counted worthy** -- Acts 5:40-42
5. **Pray for them** -- Luke 6:27-36
6. **Pressures and hardships** -- II Cor 1:3-11 / 6:3-10
7. **The fellowship of Christ's suffering** -- Phil 3:7-14