What is the Bible All About?

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*This video is designed to function like a workshop. You may be asked to pause the video and engage in an activity. Please have a Bible, notebook, and pen handy.*

**What are some common challenges you face when reading the Bible?**

* A common challenge we all face is forgetting why the Bible was written to us.
	+ To understand a story, we need to understand its main point.
* The Bible was given to use for specific reasons. Understanding these reasons will help us make sense of any passage we read.

***The Bible is about who God is, what he has done for the world in Christ, and how his people can be transformed in His image.***

**“The Bible is about who God is…”**

* The Bible is God’s own revelation of Himself to us.
	+ We have the Bible so we can know who God is.

**“…what He has done for the world in Christ…”**

* **Read the following two passages of scripture:**
	+ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)
	+ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:44-47)
* **What do these verses teach us about the Old Testament?**
	+ These verses teach us that the Old Testament is ultimately about Jesus.
	+ Jesus uses the Old Testament to point His disciples to who He is as the Messiah and what He came to do.

* **How does knowing that the Bible is about Jesus change the way that you approach it?**

**“…and how his people can be transformed in His image.”**

* The Bible teaches us how we can become more like Christ. It teaches us how to live godly lives in the here and now.
* “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)
* Scriptures…
	+ make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ.
	+ teach us about God’s redemptive work through Christ.
	+ teach, equip, and train us in how to grow in righteousness and live Godly lives.
* Through reading the Bible we can:
	+ be conformed more into image of Jesus
	+ be taught the way that God wants us to live
	+ see and pursue the will of God for our lives

**Reading, understanding, and studying the Bible**

* When reading the Bible, we can ask lots of questions:
	+ Who wrote it
	+ What genre is it written in
	+ What are the main themes
	+ Who is it written to…
* Three questions to ask when reading a passage of scripture
	+ What does the scripture teach me about God?
	+ How does the author of scripture point me to Jesus?
	+ How does the author of scripture point me to a godly life?

**Exercise**

**Read Philippians 2:1-11 and answer these three questions.**

1. What does this passage teach me about God?

*The apostle Paul talks about the Father, Son, and Spirit – we learn that God is a triune God.*

*The Father exalts the Son to the highest place and gives Him the name above every other name. The Father and Son glorify and honor one another.*

1. How does the author point his audience to Jesus?

*Jesus is God*

*Jesus is humble and obeyed the Father perfectly.*

*Jesus became a man – He put on the likeness of men and lived a full human life and obeyed His father to the point of death on the cross.*

*He is the Lord over everything, and everyone will one day acknowledge His lordship.*

1. How does the author point his audience to a godly life?

*We should prioritize unity through being humble toward one another.*

**Read Matthew 13:1-23 and answer these three questions.**

1. What does this passage teach me about God?

*God has a word – to go out to people and be received in the hearts of people.*

*God is the judge of all.*

*Matthew 13:14 and 15 – quoting a prophecy from Isaiah, which references God’s work of judgment upon Israel.*

1. How does the author point his audience to Jesus?

*Jesus ultimately is the judge of men. He is the one fulfilling this prophecy about Isaiah.*

*He has authority to teach about the kingdom of God and He reveals the true nature of God’s kingdom*

*Jesus is the one who was hoped for by the Old Testament saints and prophets*

*Jesus is the ultimate Sower of God’s word an ultimate teacher in god’s kingdom*

1. How does the author point his audience to a godly life?

*We should receive God’s word in our heart fully so that we may bear fruit*

*As we are sowing the word of God in the hearts of people/living as ambassadors in the lives of those placed in our life, there will be a variety of responses to the word of God.*

**Read 2 Samuel 7 and answer these three questions.**

1. What does this passage teach me about God?

*God has always dwelled with his people.*

*God is not confined to a physical structure but has always dwelled with his people as he has guided and carried them.*

*He chose a people for himself to make His name great and He redeems His people for the sake of His name*

*His will is to appoint a king over his people and to establish a kingdom over his people that will last forever*

*God is great, gracious, and makes promises to his people for their good.*

1. How does the author point his audience to Jesus?

*We are given a promise of a divine king, the promised son of David*

*Jesus is the promised king. Everything expected from the king is fulfilled in Jesus*

1. How does the author point his audience to a godly life?

*I can have hope and confidence in God’s word*

*God gave a promise in the Old Testament and fulfilled the promise in the person of Christ.*

*God is a God who keeps his promises.*

*I can have hope and confidence and gratitude to God for his faithfulness to his promises. He has been faithful to provide a king through Jesus.*

**As we remember what the bible is all about, we can engage, interpret it in a way that is faithful, full of integrity, and we can apply it in a way that God intended.**

Resources

* [Free Course from The Gospel Coalition](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/foundations-biblical-interpretation/#approaches-to-meaning)
	+ If you would like to take an extended, deeper dive in understanding how to interpret the Bible, this free course may be a great option for you.
* [The Bible Project Video](https://bibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/)
	+ This organization provides helpful, easy to watch videos that help us to understand the Bible. We encourage you to watch them all!
* [Six Question to Ask When Studying the Bible in a Group](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-questions-to-ask-when-studying-the-bible-in-a-group) - Desiring God
* [ESV Study Bible](https://www.crossway.org/bibles/esv-study-bible-case/)
* *Living By the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the* Bible – Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks
* *Jesus On Every Page: 10 Simple Ways to Seek and Find Christ in the Old Testament* – David Murray
* *40 Question About Interpreting the Bible* – Robert L. Plummer
* *The Christ-Centered Expositor: A Field Guide for Word-Driven Disciple* Makers – Tony Merida
* [Resources from Danny Akin](http://dannyakin.com/)
	+ Search the word “hermeneutics” (which is the study of Bible interpretation) in the search tab; a wide variety of written and audio resources are available
* [How Christ Fulfilled and Ended the Old Testament Regime](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-christ-fulfilled-and-ended-the-old-testament-regime) - John Piper
	+ This short blog post gives a good summary of how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament. These categories help to guide us as we read the Old Testament.