

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "What is the Bible?" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/what-is-bible>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

1. Why did God choose to reveal God's self through the history, struggles, and meditations of one particular people situated in one particular corner of the earth?
2. How do the diverse genres of poetry, letters, law texts, and wisdom writings complement the narrative texts and thus contribute to our overall understanding of the overarching story? Why the diversity of genres?
3. What is the value in God revealing God's self through texts spread out over 1000 years and written by different authors?
4. What are the advantages or pitfalls to different Christian traditions including different lists of writings into the Bible?
5. Does this story continue on in Christian believers today? If so, how? If not, what is fundamentally different between the story of the Bible and the story of the Church as lived out today?

Read & Share:

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.

2. THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "The Story of the Bible?" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/the-story-of-the-bible>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

1. From the Tower of Babel story through the rest of the Old Testament, what specific consequences manifested themselves from choices that individuals and whole groups of people made in defining good and evil on their own terms rather than on God's?
2. Why is it so tempting to eat the "forbidden fruit" and define good and evil on our own terms?
3. Review the context of Exodus 19:13b. Might God be calling all of Israel up the mountain into his presence here? If so, does Israel remain "distant" by choosing to make Moses an intermediary in Exodus 20:18-20?
4. How does God/Jesus' definition of good, as serving others and practicing self-sacrificial love, ultimately triumph over the evil we often choose for ourselves? Where else can we see evidence of this triumph at work in the world?

Read & Share:

Read [Joshua 24:14-18](#) (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

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3. UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "Literary Styles" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/literary-styles-bible>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

1. The Bible is a library of diverse literature composed over a vast period of time by many authors. How does this knowledge help us to understand the grand story of God and humanity? On the other hand, what problems confront a reader when navigating so many different authors and literary genres?
2. Why do you suppose it took so many generations for Jesus, the promised messiah, to arrive?
3. In the end, when all wrongs are made right, all evil is eradicated, heaven and earth unite, and humanity rules together with God, will it be because humanity finally chooses God's definition, or because God overwhelms us with so much goodness that we have little choice in the matter? What are some other possible scenarios?

Read & Share:

Read [2 Peter 3:10-17](#) (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

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4. MEDITATION OF THE BIBLE

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "Ancient Jewish Meditation Literature" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/bible-jewish-meditation-literature-h2r>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

1. Describe what you felt when you walked out of the cinema immediately after being totally immersed in a great movie.
2. Similarly, what was it that you experienced after the final page of your favorite novel?
3. Discuss overlapping differences and similarities between biblical narrative and all the other narratives we encounter in daily life.
4. What makes the Bible so unique? Share a moment of personal revelation you had while reading the Scriptures. What was happening? How was Scripture orientating your location and relationship with God and our world?

Read & Share:

Read Psalm 1:1-6 (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.