

Let's Discuss...The Bible

PART 2_How the Bible was Formed



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Key Bible verses:

Jesus' birth...
Matthew 1:18-25

The creation story...
Genesis 1 & 2

*All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting and
training in righteousness...*
2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

*The law of the LORD is
perfect, refreshing the soul.*
Psalm 19:7a NIV

EPISODE SUMMARY

In this episode, we talk about how the Bible was first written (by different groups of people over hundreds of years) and what it looks like - its structure.

We also talk about the first ever churches and how they put the Bible together, through lots of help from the Holy Spirit and God's wisdom. It is amazing how even though it was written so long ago, it has ultimate authority today and mysteries that we are still wanting to uncover!

DEFINITIONS

immaculate conception: the miracle of Jesus' birth through Mary, who was a virgin

metanarratives: the big picture themes that are woven throughout the narrative of the Bible

The Torah: refers to the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Leviticus) and is central to the Jewish faith (also known as the Pentateuch or the Five Books of Moses)

LET'S DISCUSS...

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Considering that God is perfect and humans are not, what do you think about God using different groups of humans (over many years) to create the Bible?
 - » How does this make you feel about God wanting to work through you?
- What do you think about the Bible being 100% trustworthy and reliable? Have you ever struggled with this idea?
- God chose to become human and be born to two poor, ordinary people in a stable surrounded by animals...What does this tell you about the heart of God? Does this affect how you see the Bible?
- How can we do our best to understand what the Bible is wanting to tell us? Without twisting it to suit us.
 - » Hint: Using the questions that Rocky mentions in *The Bible YOUTH101* might help!
- How do you feel about asking questions about the Bible? Are there Christians in your life who you feel safe to do this with?
 - » We could start by understanding that God is a loving father, who wants us to feel free to be honest with Him and ask any questions we might have. Admit the questions to yourself, then ask God about them, then talk about them with others. It might be scary, but God can handle them!

LET'S PRAY...

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within

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us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Ephesians 3:20 MSG

- God wants to work within us all, to grow our understanding and strengthen our trust in Him. As we take a deeper look at how the Bible was formed, invite God to work deeply and gently within you. May the Lord enlighten the eyes of your imagination to see Scripture in a new way today.

LET'S GO DEEPER...

- *The Bible Explored - A Brief History* by the Canadian Bible Society [video]
- *How the Canon of the Bible was Formed* by Mike Licona [video]
- "Sources for Caesar and Jesus Compared" by Darrell Bock [article]

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