

The Bible YOUTH101



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Key Bible verses:

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Hebrews 4:12 ESV

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105 ESV

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17 NRSV

SUMMARY

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- The Bible is not a science book.
- The Bible is made up of 66 books written over hundreds of years from different cultures and communities.
- For 300 years after Jesus died and resurrected, the early church, through prayerful consideration, meetings, and councils, settled on the books and structure which make up the 66.
- The Bible speaks of the overarching story of God's plan passed down from generation to generation.
- The Bible is comprised of two major sections: The Old Testament & New Testament.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The Old Testament was put together over thousands of years by multiple writers and editors.
- The Old Testament's Literary Styles include...

STORIES (aka NARRATIVE)

i.e., Genesis, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Chronicles

LAW

i.e., Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

POETRY

i.e., Psalms

PROPHECY

i.e., Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Micah, Zechariah

WISDOM LITERATURE

i.e., Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

- All of these ways of writing pointed the then Jewish community toward God whilst foreshadowing the coming of the Messiah, who we know to be Jesus Christ.
- The Old Testament tackles questions like...
 - » What is the meaning of life?
 - » What is the difference between good and evil?
 - » How does one stay faithful to God?

THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The New Testament Literary Styles include...

THE GOSPELS

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

- » These books capture the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of the Messiah (Jesus) that the Old Testament foreshadowed.

LETTERS (aka EPISTLES)

i.e., Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Titus, Philemon, just to name a few...

- » These flesh out questions like, *How do we live our lives considering the Messiah who has come? What does this mean for us here and now?*

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Key Bible verses:

*The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are
sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are
right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord
is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are
true and righteous altogether.*
Psalm 19:7-9 NRSV

*God's reputation is twenty-
four-carat gold,
with a lifetime guarantee.
The decisions of God are
accurate down to
the nth degree.*
Psalm 19:9 MSG

WHY SHOULD WE READ THE BIBLE?

- All Scripture is inspired by God and is still relevant to us today.
 - » Hebrews 4:12
 - » 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- The Scripture acts as a guide or sacred tool that God has provided humanity to lead us back to God.
 - » Psalm 119:105
 - » Psalm 19:7-9

QUESTIONS TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

WHO?

Who wrote the text? Who was it written to?

WHEN?

When was the text written (both historically and culturally)?

WHAT?

What is the literary style of the passage?

WHY?

Why is this included in the Bible? How does it fit within the big picture of the entire Biblical narrative?

HOW?

How does this apply to me? How does it help me see God and become more like Him?

LET'S DISCUSS...

- What do we mean when we say the 'word of God'? Why should we see the Bible in this way?
- How can we apply what we learn in the Bible to our daily lives?
- Is your use of the Bible where you want it to be?
- In a world where it is easy to get so distracted, what do you find stops/distracts you from reading your Bible?
- Do you think it is important to read the Bible...will anything change if you don't?

LET'S PRAY...

Here's a helpful acronym which is based on four verses from the psalms. **I-O-U-S**

Incline my heart to your testimonies (Psalm 119:36)

Open my eyes to see wonderful things (Psalm 119:18)

Unite my heart to fear your name (Psalm 86:11)

Satisfy me in the morning with your steadfast love (Psalm 90:14)

These verses teach our hearts, our eyes, our minds, and our souls, what to expect as we go, so that no matter what we are reading—whether it seems exciting or boring! —we have our hearts set on the living, active Word of God.

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- Take a moment to pray through the acronym, I-O-U-S. Consider using this prayer before you read the Bible this week.

LET'S GO DEEPER...

- *Book Overviews* by BibleProject [videos]
- *How to Read the Bible Series* by BibleProject [videos]
- *ESV Study Bible* [book]
- *Bible* [app]
- *SOAP Bible Study METHOD 2021 - Easy Way To Study The Bible For Beginners* by Becoming Syera [video]
- bibleref.com
- blueletterbible.com

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