



June - July • 2021

Overview

In a world of self-help books and no shortage of information readily available online, could there really be one book that stands above them all? As followers of Jesus, we clearly think so. So why do we believe that the Bible is unique? How should this affect how we read it and how we respond to what we read? Let's pray that this series would forever change our relationship with God, the ultimate author of this incredible book.

Outline

Week 1 - Inspiration

Week 2 - Truth

Week 3 - Authority

Week 4 - Sufficiency

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Week 1 • 13 June 2021 • Inspiration

Something(s) to never forget...

- The Bible is the word of God.
- The Bible reveals the way of salvation.
- The Bible equips us for every good work.

Something to memorise - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Something to talk about...

1. Have a look at Psalm 19:1-4 and Romans 1:20. What can we learn about God from the world we live in?
2. Take a few moments to reflect on the truth that God himself is the ultimate author of the Bible. What reflections do you have about this?
3. Paul wrote that Scripture has two purposes - to make us wise for salvation and to equip us for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17).
 - a. How does this affect your expectation when you read the Bible?

- b. Are there other expectations people try to have of the Bible?
4. When is your favourite time and place to read the Bible? Do you try and read it all? Do you have a plan? Share together.

Something to do...

If you've never read the Bible or are a bit 'hit-and-miss,' why not make a plan to start reading it daily.

Pro-tips

- Set yourself a goal and share it with someone else.
- Start small and be consistent - even just a paragraph or section of Matthew every day is a great start.
- Try a plan like in the resources below.
- Read it with others. YouVersion is an app that allows you to select all sorts of reading plans which you can also read with others.

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Week 2 • 20 June 2021 • Truth

Something(s) to never forget...

- God's word is truth because God is truth.
- God's word is the final standard of truth.
- God's word is reliable.

Something to memorise - John 8:31-32

Something to talk about...

1. What's your favourite Bible verse and why?
2. If the Bible is God's word, it's inevitable that what it says will sometimes conflict with the beliefs of those around us (or even our own!).
 - a. What encourages you to trust God in these moments?
 - b. What have you learned about having conversations in a Christ-like way with people who disagree?

3. Take a few minutes to read and re-read Proverbs 3:6-7 together. Then silently ponder it by yourself asking God to speak through these verses. Then share together what you notice and what you might need to do about it.

Something to do...

If you don't have a habit of memorising Scripture, why not make a plan to start today.

Pro-tips

- The next time a verse jumps out as significant to you, write it on a post-it and stick it in a place where you'll remember to read it every day.
- Have a look online for a memory verse app. There are a few to choose from and they can be a big help.
- As part of your regular Bible reading, write a memory verse on a bookmark so that you read it every time you open your Bible.

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Week 3 • 27 June 2021 • Authority

Something(s) to never forget...

- God's word is to be obeyed.
- Obedience is an opportunity, not a burden.
- The Bible has authority in all areas of life.

Something to memorise - Matthew 7:24

Something to talk about...

1. The Bible is full of memorable scenes and “stories” from arks and lions’ dens to storms and parting seas. What’s your favourite and why?
2. Have a look at Mathew 7:24-27. Try to describe Jesus’ big idea in a sentence. See who can say it in the shortest sentence.
3. To what extent do you think the idea of authority is controversial in our culture? How might you describe the authority of Scripture to show that it is a good thing?

4. Are there any areas where you're struggling to obey God right now? Why not pray together about this remembering that it is God (not our own will power) that actually gives us the ability (Heb 8:10).

Something to do...

Read a portion of Scripture every day and use SOAP to help you journal and apply it.

S - Scripture - Note down the Bible verse or passage.

O - Observation - What is one thing that stands out to you?

A - Apply - What do you think God wants you to do about this?

P - Pray - What do you want to say to God about this?

Pro-tips:

- Pray before you read.
- Focus on what is clear and that you do understand.
- Turn what you notice into a timeless principle - what does this mean for all people?
- Talk it through with others, especially if you have questions.
- Be specific in your application.

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Week 4 • 4 July 2021 • Sufficiency

Something(s) to never forget...

- The Bible contains all we need to understand what God desires for us to do.
- The Bible helps us understand what God thinks about an issue.
- The Bible helps us make Godly choices.

Something to memorise - Psalm 119:105

Something to Talk About...

1. Imagine a friend asked you about the Bible. How would you describe its overall message in a sentence?
2. What is your balance of reading Scripture and learning about God from other sources? What do you think a healthy balance looks like?
3. Can you describe a time when the Bible helped clarify a decision you needed to make?
 - a. What happened?

- b. What role does the Bible have in your day to day decisions?
4. God requires nothing more of us than what He has communicated in Scripture? Can you think of any rules or traditions that have been added either by you or others?

Something to Do...

The next time you have a tricky decision to make, have a think through the relevant Biblical principles that speak to the issue. How does it change the decision?

Pro-tips

- Approach the decision prayerfully. Ask God to speak to you and remind you of what He has said (2 Chronicles 20:12).
- Bring 1 or 2 other trusted people into the conversation (Proverbs 15:22)
- Ask God to check your heart and reveal any ulterior motives (Psalm 139:23-24).
- If there's a Bible verse you can only vaguely remember, just cheat and use Google to help you find it (there is no verse for this!).

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Additional Resources

As you use other resources, always be checking to make sure what they're saying is lining up with what you already know about Scripture. Where you're not sure, bring others in on the conversation to help.

Bible Reading Plans

- [One Year Bible](#) - This plan covers a portion of the Old and New Testament, a Psalm and a Proverb every day. You could just read the New Testament part as a start.
- [Bible Project Reading Plan](#) - A plan to read the Bible in under a year including relevant Bible Project videos along the way.

Discovery Bible Method

- This is an approach to reading the Bible with other people, especially where they are new to faith or interested in finding out more about Jesus.
- [Discovery Bible Method](#)

Field Guide to the Bible



This is a great handbook for anyone new to reading the Bible. It includes overviews of the Bible, introductions to books and support for how to read the Bible well.

Something to Watch...

The Canon

Canon is a word used when we talk about which books were included in the Bible and which were left out.

- [Southern Seminary](#) - Answers the question, “How did the church get the Biblical canon. (12mins)
- [The Gospel Coalition](#) - Answer to the question, “Did the church create the Bible? (6mins)

Inerrancy

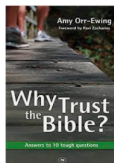
In the series, we focused on the truth of Scripture. Commonly, people will speak of the inerrancy of Scripture - that the Bible is without error. Here’s a video from [Southern Seminary](#) for more.

Authority

When we’re seeking to apply the Bible to our lives, we don’t obey every verse as if it applies directly to us. It means we have to grow in interpreting the Bible. There are lots of books out there on Biblical interpretation but here’s a short video from [Whiteboard Ministries](#) to get you started.

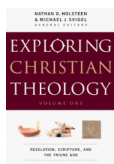


Something to Read...



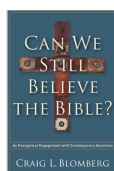
Why Trust the Bible? Amy Orr-Ewing

- Answers 10 top questions people have about the Bible.
- Easy to read and packed with memorable facts.



Exploring Christian Theology - Volume 1

- Great theological introduction to the core doctrines and verses around what God has revealed.
- Short and easy to read theology book.



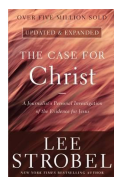
Can We Still Believe the Bible? Craig Blomberg

- A more academic look at skeptical questions often aimed at the Bible.
- It's still pretty easy to read and not too long!



Learn the Bible in 24 Hours - Chuck Missler

- A good companion as you read through the Bible
- Helps you make connections to the bigger narrative and answers common questions along the way.



The Case for Christ - Lee Strobel

- Charts the journey of journalist and skeptic Lee Strobel's investigation into the resurrection that led him to faith.
- Classic book for anyone concerned that faith and reason are in conflict.