

Question-Able™ Discipleship How To Read the Bible

Reflecting Listening Why? Engaged
Question-Able™
Generous Commit Faith
Questioning Discipleship Knowledge

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Course Overview

About this Course

How to Read the Bible is exactly what the title suggests. It is a course of study that introduces participants to ways in which they can engage with, and understand, the Bible. Most people who start a course like this do so because they have questions. That is a good thing, because this course is structured and presented so as to encourage asking questions and processing answers. It is designed to assist disciples as they enter into a conversation with scripture. Conversation being a dialogue, rather than a lecture, this course uses questioning as the language through which we speak to scripture, while the scriptures provide a language through which God can speak to us.

The course is structured around the historical chronology of the biblical narrative as opposed to ordering the conversations based on the category or literary type of the individual books. This is done for two reasons: 1) in order to reinforce the understanding of how God acts in and through history, and 2) understanding the sequence of events that led up to the birth, work, and death of Christ provides essential context for understanding His message.

The course is not so much taught as facilitated. Training for facilitators is available through The Network. Please contact them via email at info@thenetworkTE.org or by phone at (804)824-1317

Learning Goals

We hope that those who decide to take this course have some specific goals for your own learning. The material was developed with the following goals in mind:

- 1) To introduce disciples to resources, concepts, and vocabulary for reading, understanding, and interpreting the Christian Bible.
- 2) Allow disciples to develop a questioning skill set that enables a directed and productive engagement with the Bible.

- 3) Assist disciples in establishing habits of deliberate inquiry and thoughtful reflection in matters related to their faith.
- 4) Provide opportunity for disciples to articulate their own biblical and theological understanding and beliefs.

An organization or group may also have goals that reflect their individual ministry contexts. The material should be as adaptable as the imagination.

Resources

Resources for participants and facilitators are provided through the Network for Theological Education digital engagement platform. The site also provides facilitator and participant guides where a list of the recommended resources for each unit can be found

Conversation Schedule

Outlined in the table below is the suggested schedule for going through the course material. It follows the historical chronology of the events addressed in the Christian Bible, so addressing the topics in the order listed is strongly suggested.

While most groups will use a unit for each meeting session, feel free to linger for more than one session on any given topic.

Unit	Topic	Focal Scriptures ¹
I	Introduction Preparing for the journey. In this introductory session, the usual housekeeping activities (registration of participants, introductions, etc.) are covered. Participants are provided an overview of the materials and advised of how to access resources. There is a general introduction to formulating questions and an activity that allows participant to put it into practice.	
II	Creation The world is formed by God. Understanding the story in light of its cultural and literary context.	Genesis 1-2
III	Catastrophe Why so much in the world seems wrong. This unit focuses on the story of Adam and Eve and the events in the Garden of Eden.	Genesis 3-11

¹ These are the key scriptures for the particular topic to which they are assigned. A more expansive scripture list is available.

IV	Covenant The story of Abraham- the work of redemption begins through one family.	Genesis 12-22
V	Community (Part 1: Exodus) Deliverance from slavery and how a nation begins to understand how it is set apart as a people.	Exodus 1-15
VI	Community (Part 2: Sinai) Becoming a people who will change the world.	Exodus 16-24; 32-34; 40 Numbers 9:14 Deuteronomy 26-34
VII	Conquest The Israelites take the land of Canaan. God's keeps His promises, but the people are not faithful to theirs.	Joshua 1-8; 22-24 Judges 1-8; 19-21
VIII	Crown We Three Kings- The first three kings of Israel and the Golden Age of the Hebrews.	I Sam. 1-3; 7-20; 24-31 II Sam. 1-2; 5-7; 11-12 I Kings 1-3; 6-11
IX	Conceit All comes apart because of the people's unfaithfulness, despite warnings from the prophets. A once-proud nation is taken into exile from their Promised Land.	I Kings 12-19 II Kings 2-5; 17-25 Isaiah 1; 5-7; 38-43; 51-53; 64 Jeremiah 1-8; 11; 24-33; 52 Ezekiel 4-11; 34-37 Daniel 1-6 Ezra 1; 3-6; 9-10 Nehemiah 1-13 Malachi 1-4
X	Interlude The prophets retire, the Israelites largely cease to exist as an independent nation. Feeling God's presence has left them, people begin to ask questions as never before. The period during which God seems to be silent.	
XI	Christ God's is seen as His promise is fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus the Christ.	Luke 1:1-19:27

XII	Cross The story of Jesus' final Passover on this earth and what it means.	Luke 19:28-24:53
XIII	Church A Common Bond- Gathering together in His name.	Acts 1-15 I Peter 2
XIV	Consummation Where This is All Going- The Revelation and the end of the story.	Revelation 1-5; 12-13; 19-22

Please Note: The course is organized around the book *The Story of God, The Story of Us: Getting Lost and Found in the Bible* by Sean Gladding (ISBN: 978-0-8308-3632-1). It is not necessary to have a copy of the book for full participation in this course, but copies may be obtained through the NTE Web site. And are available at a discount off the MSRP.