

The Story of the Bible

This study has several aims in mind:

1. To give you an overview of the Bible
2. To lead you to trust the authority of God's Word in your life
3. To help you see how the Bible is all one story of God's grace through Jesus
4. To give you more desire to read, study, and know God through his Word

The structure is as follows:

Week 1: What's the Bible All About?

Week 2: The Bible is a Story

Week 3: The Bible is a Story of God's Grace Through "Covenants"

Week 4: The Bible is a Story of God's Grace Through Jesus

Week 5: The Bible is a Missional Story That Ends in Glory

This is meant to be used in a small group, which means there are 3 different sections:

LEARN

Read God's Word, along with some articles and watching videos, in order to be discuss and grow in your knowledge of God and his Word.

EQUIP

Knowledge is always meant to be applied to our life. Discuss how what we learned can equip us to to better live it out in daily life.

PRAY

Spend time responding to God with what you've learned about his Word. Praise him, thank him, and ask him for help understanding it all the more.

Here are some recommended optional resources as you get started. There are also additional resources at the end of each section for those who want to do deeper.

- Buy and read the book: "Jesus Storybook Bible" by Sally Lloyd-Jones (for kids and adults!)
- Listen: "Overview of the Whole Bible" (D.A. Carson - 30 min.)
- Watch: "How to Read the Bible Correctly" (10-min)
- Read ebook: "The Drama of Scripture" (Bartholomew & Goheen - 209 pages)

Tools for reading the Bible (see last page):

- Read: "Help for Those Beginning to Read the Bible"
- Read: "25 Tips for Reading the Bible"
- Watch: Video summary of every book of the Bible (Bible Project)
- Watch: Individual videos of OT books and how they relate to Christ (Tim Keller)

Recommended Books:

- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (Fee)
- Read This First (Gary Millar)
- God's Big Picture (Roberts)
- Knowing Scripture (Sproul)

Bible Reading Plan:

- NT, PS, PRO in One Year (NT, Ps & Prov)
- 2 Year Bible Reading Plan (OT+NT in 2 yrs)

Week 1: WHAT'S THE BIBLE ALL ABOUT?

LEARN

- ☐ Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12-13
- ☐ Read the article: "Inspiration of Scripture"

► What do these passages say about what the Bible is and why we can trust it?

► From these passages, what are some of the things the Bible is meant to do?

- ☐ Read Genesis 1-2 and Isaiah 43:7-11

► Why did God create man and all things? How was man to live that purpose out?

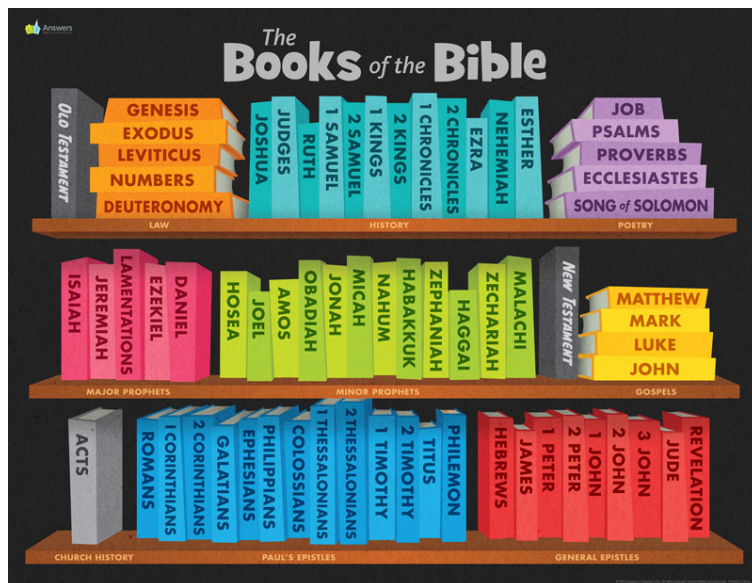
► How might knowing that indicate what the Bible is about?

- ☐ Read the article: "The Authority and Inerrancy of Scripture"

► How would you describe the difference between the "authority" and "inerrancy" of Scripture to someone?

- ☐ Watch the video: "What is the Bible" (6-min)
- ☐ Look at the graphic: "The Books of the Bible"

► How would you describe what the Bible is about in a few sentences from this short video & lesson?



EQUIP

- How do you personally view the Bible, it's inspiration and authority in your life?

- How would you rate your desire to know God through his Word, and for God's Word to change you?

<i>None</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Some</i>	<i>A lot</i>
0		5	10

- What's an area of your life you feel you most need God's Word to speak into right now (Satisfaction in life, marriage, work, parenting, a current trial, etc)? How would you hope it would impact that area?

- What's one way you hope to be impacted by this group and study?

PRAY

Read the following verses slowly. Pause at times to speak to God as you read.

Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Psalms 19:7-8, 10-11 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes... More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

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

Luke 11:28 - But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Matthew 4:4. But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Additional Resources

- Read (book): ["Jesus Storybook Bible"](#) by Sally Lloyd-Jones (for kids and adults!)
- Listen: ["Overview of the Whole Bible"](#) (D.A. Carson)
- Watch: ["How to Read the Bible Correctly"](#) (10-min)

Week 2: THE BIBLE IS A STORY

LEARN

☐ Read Genesis 3; Matthew 1; Ephesians 2:1-10; Revelation 21:1-4

► How do these chapters describe the story of the Bible as seen through these 4 stages?



☐ Watch “The Story of the Bible” (5-min)

☐ Read “The Story-Line of the Bible”

► Describe each part of the story in your own words.

Creation: _____

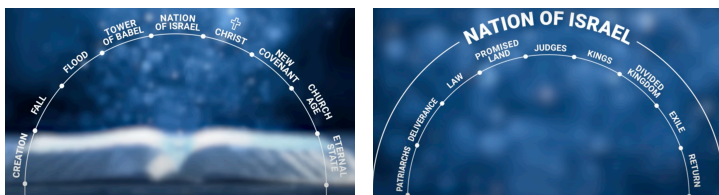
Redemption: _____

Fall: _____

Restoration: _____

Optional But Recommended:

☐ Watch: Overview of the Bible in 17 Minutes



☐ Watch: “Old Testament Overview” (12-min)



☐ Watch: “New Testament Overview” (8-min)



EQUIP

- Discuss why everyone have some sort of worldview and how it affects their life depending on what it is.
- Creation (God, where came from, purpose in life, value, morality, etc)
 - Fall (sin, suffering, injustice, natural disaster, etc)
 - Redemption (salvation, hope, justice, ability to change, grace, forgiveness, etc)
 - Restoration (what happens after death, judgement, eternity, etc)

- How should being created in the image of God but also sinful/depraved impact how we see ourselves?

- How should knowing Christ died so we could be with God forever impact how we see ourselves?

- In what ways might you live inconsistent with this story? Where do you need to align your life and story more to that of the Bible?

PRAY

Read the following verses slowly. Pause at times to speak to God as you read.

Eph. 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Additional Resources

- Watch: [Overview of the Bible in 17 Minutes](#)
- Listen: [“Overview of the Whole Bible”](#) (D.A. Carson) (34 min)
- Read (article): [“Reading the Bible as One Story”](#)

Week 3: THE BIBLE IS A STORY OF GOD'S GRACE THROUGH COVENANTS

LEARN

☐ Read **"Covenant Theology"**

☐ Watch **"Five Key Covenants God Makes with Humans"** (5-min)

► What is a "covenant" and how does God make "covenants" with his people throughout the Bible?

☐ Read **Genesis 9:1-17, 12:1-3, 15:1-18a, 17:1-9**

► What are the main covenant promises from God and covenant obligations for Abraham (& his children)? How do you see those promises fulfilled through the rest of Scripture (even in Revelation)?

☐ Read **Exodus 19:3-7; 24:4-8**

► Why did the people need to be sprinkled with "the blood of the covenant" (v. 8) from burnt offerings after Moses read the law and they committed to be obedient to all the Lord asked of them? What did it signify?

☐ Read **2 Samuel 7:8-17; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 14:22-25; Hebrews 12:24**

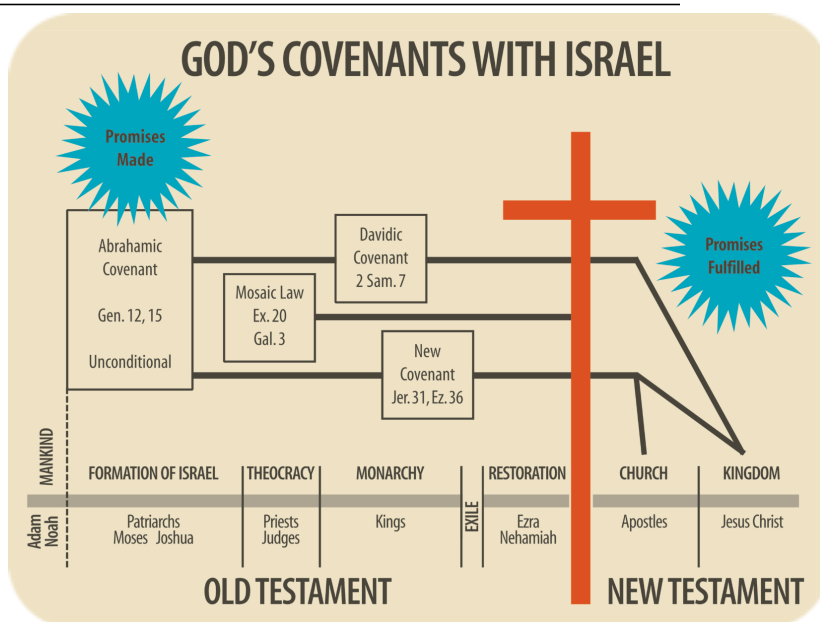
► Did the "new covenant" nullify/do away with or did it build upon God's past covenants? Explain.

► How was the "new covenant" to be better? How was it fulfilled in Jesus?

Optional But Recommended:

☐ Watch **"What is Covenant Theology?"** (5-min)

☐ Read article: **"The Story of the Bible"**



EQUIP

- ▶ While normal covenants required both parties to walk through the bloody animal pieces in the covenant ceremony, what does it mean that God himself walked through them while Abraham slept? And how does that apply to when you are tempted to feel God's promise to you is based on your faithfulness to him?

- ▶ What are the implications that Jesus was called the "Lamb of God," that Jesus called the wine at the Last Supper his "blood of the covenant," and that he said on the cross, "It is finished"?

- ▶ The story of the Bible is one of grace throughout the Old and New Testament. God asks for obedience from us, but has always preceded it with promises to us, fulfilled them through Jesus. How does knowing this encourage you? How does it motivate you to want to live a life of repentance and obedience?

- ▶ If you are married, how does the way God "covenants" with us apply to how we relate to our spouse, being that marriage is a picture of Christ's covenantal love for us as his bride (Eph. 5:22-33)?

PRAY

Read the following verses slowly. Pause at times to speak to God as you read.

Jer. 31:33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Heb. 13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

Additional Resources

- Read: ["Why Covenant Theology Matters"](#)
- Read: ["5 Ways Covenant Theology Applies to Everyday Life"](#)
- Book: ["Covenants Made Simple" \(Jonty Rhodes\)](#)

Week 4: THE BIBLE IS A STORY OF GOD'S GRACE THROUGH JESUS

LEARN

☐ Read Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:1-12;

► What do these OT passages say about the coming of the Messiah, and how did Jesus fulfill them?

☐ Read John 1:1-14, 29-30; 5:39; 20:31; Luke 24:25-27; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:3

► What do these passages teach us about all of Scripture being about Jesus?

☐ Read: **"Your Whole Bible is About Jesus"**

☐ Watch: **"Discovering the Gospel in Every Book of the Bible"** (10-min)

☐ Watch: **"True & Better"** (2-min)

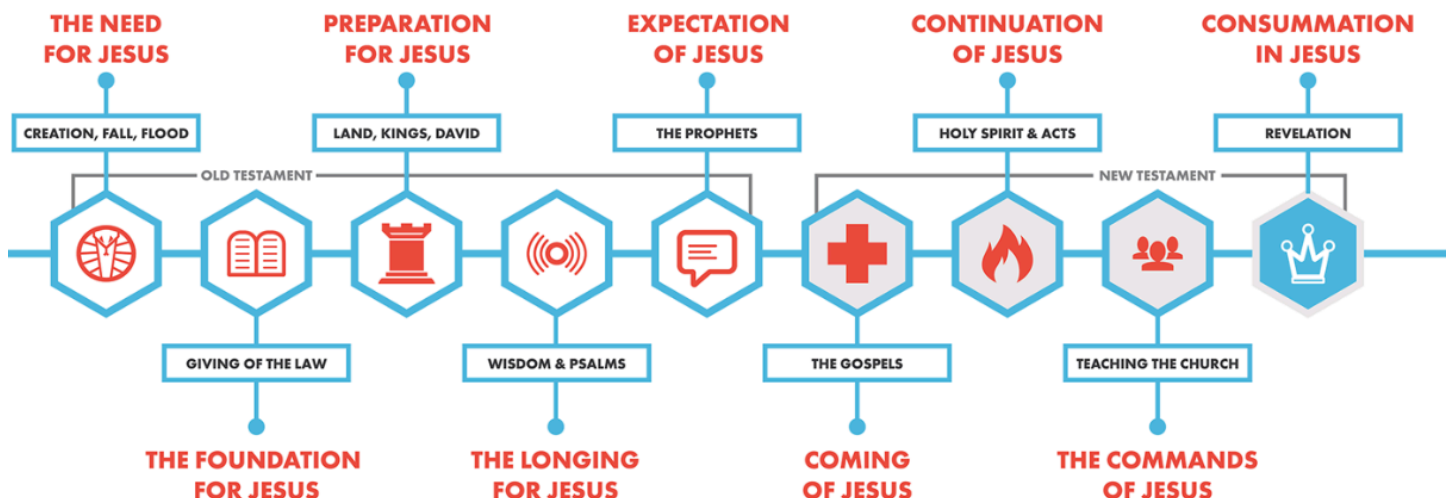
☐ Look at the Visual Theology graphic below

► Why does it make a difference in studying the Bible if every book of the Bible points to Jesus and the grace of God that can only come through him?

Optional But Recommended:

☐ Watch: **"New Testament Overview"** (8-min)

JESUS COVER TO COVER



EQUIP

- ▶ Imagine being a Jew and walking along with Jesus while he explains the whole Old Testament as it relates to himself. How do you think that would impact you?

- ▶ How should the whole Bible being about Jesus impact how you read the Bible? How does it help us interpret every command and view every so called “hero”?

- ▶ Read Mark 10:44-45, John 17:22-26 and John 14:34. To what extent has Jesus given us glory and loved us? How should that inform the way we love/serve our spouse, children, friends, and others around us?

PRAY

Read the following verses slowly. Pause at times to speak to God as you read.

Romans 5:6-9 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace **8** that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. **9** And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10** to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Additional Resources

- Book: [“Jesus Storybook Bible”](#) by Sally Lloyd-Jones (for kids and adults!)
- Watch: [Every Book of the Bible Is About Jesus](#) (JD Greear)
- Book: [“Jesus on Every Page”](#) (Murray)

Week 5: THE BIBLE IS A MISSIONAL STORY THAT ENDS IN GLORY

LEARN

< Question 50 >



The New City Catechism

What Does Christ's Resurrection Mean for Us?

Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

☐ Read Matthew 28; Acts 1:1-11

► What happens after Jesus rises from the dead? How is this story far from finished?

☐ Revelation 21:1-6, 22-27; 22:1-7

► How does the story end in a way that connects to the rest of the story (Creation, Fall, Redemption)?

☐ Watch: "Eternal Life" (5-min)

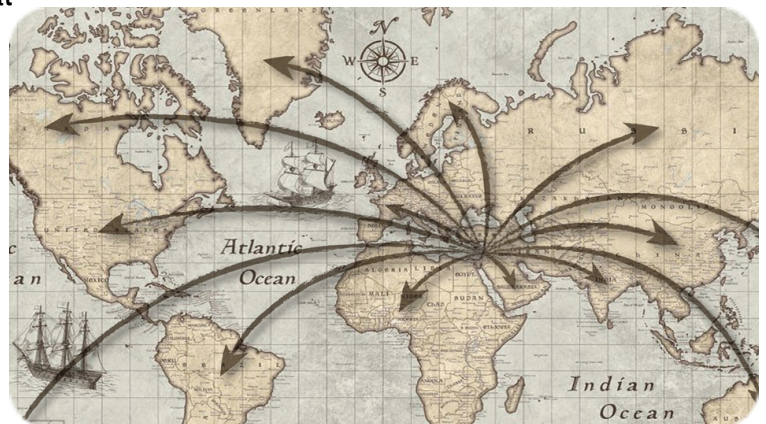
☐ Watch: "Heaven and Earth" (6-min)

☐ Watch: "The New Humanity" (5-min)

► How do these videos impact your understanding of eternal life and going to heaven?

☐ Read Article: "Mission as the Key to Unlocking the Grand Story of the Bible"

► How is God a God on mission? How do you see that through both the Old and New Testament?



EQUIP

☐ **Read Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 20-28, 42-58**

► What are some of the implications of Jesus's resurrection for you? How should it affect your life?

► Having learned God's story of the world, how does it impact the following areas in your life:

Trusting God's Plan For Your Life: _____

Your Work/Calling: _____

Marriage/Parenting/Singleness: _____

Living on Mission: _____

► What is 1-2 main take aways from this study of the story of the Bible?

PRAY


Read the following verses slowly. Pause at times to speak to God as you read.

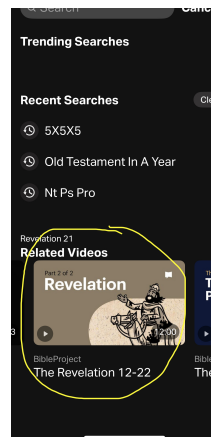
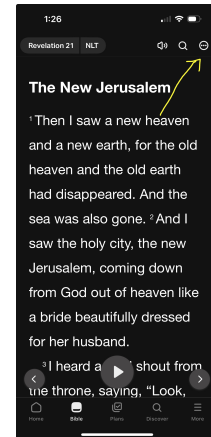
Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." **5** And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.... **22** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev. 22:3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Your Next Step in The Story of the Bible

Read the Bible...

- Read: "Help for Those Beginning to Read the Bible"
- Read: "25 Tips for Reading the Bible"
- **Get a plan**
 - Download: YouVersion "The Bible App"
 - Search for the following plans:
 - NT, PS, PRO in One Year (NT, Ps & Prov)
 - 2 Year Bible Reading Plan (OT+NT in 2 yrs)
- Choose a version to read from: NLT → NIV → ESV (Going from more readable to more literal)
- **Choose a daily time and place to read the daily chapter or two in your plan**
 - Press the 3 dots in the top right of the screen when reading. Then press on "Related Content."
Watch the Bible Project overview drawing of each book.
- Get a Study Bible to help
 - ESV Study Bible
 - NIV Study Bible
 - NLT Study Bible
 - Reformation Study Bible



A Few Tips:

- Read it first in the morning ("Scripture before phone")
- Listen to it if learn better by hearing (play button at bottom of screen)
- Pause to ask questions or ponder something as you read:
 - What does it mean?
 - What does it say about God, humanity, sin, grace)
 - How is God calling me to respond?
- End with prayer (over a verse or something that impacted you)

A Few Helps:

- Watch: Video summary of every book of the Bible (Bible Project)
- Watch: Individual videos of OT books and how they relate to Christ (Tim Keller)

Books:

- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (Fee)
- Read This First (Gary Millar)
- God's Big Picture (Roberts)
- Knowing Scripture (Sproul)

A 9-Week Video Series on the Story of the Bible

- God's Big Picture - (Nine 11-min videos)