

TOOL: How to Read the Bible

Scripture before screen • Daily



Introduction

We often talk about the importance of scripture, hear sermons from scripture, and feel pressure to be “people of The Word”, but many of us feel ill-prepared to actually know how to engage the Bible as it is. Bible reading and study is complicated, because the Bible is not simple! The Bible is a complex series of writings - from different generations, different genres, different contexts, different languages, different styles, and different purposes. So how can we begin to understand how to read the Bible for ourselves?

Before we go to scripture in our daily study, it could be helpful to spend a season understanding **how** one could faithfully read scripture, and **what** the Bible actually is. To help address this, The BibleProject created a video series for individuals and groups teaching how we can faithfully read, interpret, and apply the scriptures.

Pause and consider

- How do you feel about this practice?
- What obstacles do you anticipate that you might encounter?

Practice

About The BibleProject

The BibleProject is an animation studio that produces lessons/studies with high scholarship in clear, visual presentation and accessible to anyone. From page one to the final word, The BibleProject believes the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus and therefore to the transformation of individuals and entire communities.

About the “How to Read the Bible” Series

Many people have misunderstood the Bible as a collection of inspirational quotes or a divine instruction manual dropped from heaven. Most of us gravitate toward sections we enjoy while avoiding parts that are confusing or even disturbing.

To help address this, the BibleProject created [a series of short videos](#) to explore what the Bible is, how we received it, and how to faithfully read it. There are many videos you could explore in your personal study or with your Praxis Group. Watch this overview video to understand the point of this series.

The practice

Decide how many videos you’d like to watch per week. The videos are short (around 5 minutes each). Watch them and make sure to look at the “Study Notes” if they are provided for that video. These study notes include some discussion questions if you’d like to use them in your group dialogue or for personal reflection. As you watch the videos, write down realizations and questions you might have, and then bring them to your Praxis Group.

If you don’t know where you’d like to begin, we recommend you focus on the four videos within “[INTRO TO THE BIBLE](#)” (four episodes), and then “[HOW TO READ THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE](#)” (six episodes). Once we see the bigger picture and how to read the different types of writings, we can begin to see how God has been at work (and continues to be at work) in the beautiful, wonderful, mysterious gift we call the Bible.

Debrief your experience

After practicing with this tool, debrief your experience with your Praxis Group. Below are some questions to process together:

- Check in on life. (Where are you experiencing Christ’s presence this week? What burdens are you carrying?)
- What did you learn from this practice?
- Describe your experience with this practice. (What feelings came up, what went well, what got in the way? How has it impacted your relationship with God?)
- What is the next step for you?