

How to Read Your Bible – Wednesdays at 6:30p

#1 What is the Bible?

Why this class? Why now? -- Goals: When we are done I want you to...

Eugene Peterson, "Reading the Bible" -- "The Bible invites us to make ourselves at home in the world of God, God's word and world, and become familiar with the way God speaks and the ways in which we answer him with our lives."

What is the Bible?

The Bible is generally the involvement of God revealing Himself

- 1) into the lives and hearts of His people throughout history
- 2) accomplishing His work of saving this fallen creation (Gospel)
- 3) as He prophesied in the coming of the Christ (Old Testament)
- 2) and fulfilled in the arrival of Jesus Christ (New Testament)
- 3) expressed by His "God breathed" Word (divine inspiration) - 2 Tim 3:16 (3:10-4:5)
- 4) delivered through holy men who were "carried along by the Holy Spirit." (human language/preaching/literature) - 1 Pet 1:21 (1:16-21)
- 5) collected and given to the church (people of God) over thousands of years so that the man of God would be completely equipped against the Enemy to the end of time

The Bible is both divine and human ("The Word became flesh" John 1:14)

DIAGRAM = divine inspiration / human language

Have you ever had a great writing, poem, song move you?

In what sense are the Scriptures (writings) divinely inspired?(Shakespear/Picasso)

Did God dictate His word for word writing?

Examples: Luke "I have undertaken to compile a narrative... having followed all things closely for some time..." // Paul's Letters "don't forget my coat" // Psalm 13 "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" // Jeremiah "The Word of the LORD came to me... Then I said..." // Job "There was a man... Job opened his mouth and said..." // The vision of John's Revelation "I was in the Spirit... and I heard... and I saw..."

God breathed + men carried along -- e.g. Adam/Breath of Life/Spirit of God

The Bible is a Collection of Writings

A Brief Overview of the Genres of the Books of the Bible

Genres = Styles/Category of Writing / Example: Tell me about the meaning of "[love](#)"

The Bible Project Videos (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>)

Video on the Bible (5:48): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/what-is-bible/>

10 Things to Understand Before Reading the Bible ([Attachment](#))

Assignment for Next Time:

Topic: #2 How to Read a Gospel - Read the Gospel of Mark

Time permitting... (In preparation for assignment on Mark)

Bible Project: the Gospels (5:46): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/how-to-read-gospel/>

When you read...

- 1) Choose... a translation that is understandable to you (NKJ, ESV, CSB, NIV)
- 2) Skim... the headings to see what's coming
to see the framework (beginning, middle, end)
- 3) Read... the whole work (straight through in 1-2 sittings)
Skim ahead, then read s...l...o...w...l...y
Read for paragraphs/thoughts/headings not verses
Use an audio Bible, if it helps, but have the text in front of you
- 4) Notice... Key terms (kingdom) / words that are repeated
(e.g. Genesis 1 "God saw that it was good.")
Tone and feeling of the writer
(e.g. Paul says to the Galatians, "Who has bewitched you!")
Characters (Who), Setting (Where/When), Plot (Why),
What's the point? -- Problem(s) / Main argument or persuasion
(e.g. Exodus 3, The Lord says, "I have come down to deliver them... so
that you will serve God on this mountain.")
Framework: Beginning, Middle, End

For Further / Deeper Study:

"How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth" by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart (specifically chapter 1 and 7)

"Women of the Word" Jen Wilkin (chapters 1-5)

"Book of Books - a Brief Introduction to the Bible" by John Schaller

Explore "[How to Read the Bible](#)" at The Bible Project (bibleproject.com)

Bible (5:48): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/what-is-bible/>

Gospel (5:46): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/how-to-read-gospel/>

Styles (5:27): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/literary-styles-bible/>

Patterns (6:06): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/design-patterns-biblical-narrative/>

Plot (5:02): <https://bibleproject.com/videos/plot-biblical-narrative/>