



All About the **BIBLE**



THE CHAPEL

All About the Bible

Have you ever looked at the Bible and thought:

"I don't know where to begin?"

"I don't understand this."

"Why does it matter if I read the Bible or not?"

"Is it the Bible, Scripture, God's word?"

If any of these statements resonate with you, know you're not alone! Lots of people (adults included!) have thought the same things. No matter how you feel about the Bible or what your background is, we are excited that you are here!

In this guide, we will:

1. Learn what the Bible teaches us about the Bible
2. Answer some commonly asked questions
3. Look at the one big story of the Bible
4. Practice reading the Bible with God together
5. Memorize God's word together

Are you ready? Let's go!

Part 1: What does the Bible say about the Bible?

As we start this adventure to learn about the Bible, there is no better place to start than the Bible itself. Read the following verses to see what they teach us about this incredible book!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well-prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.

What we learn: Several different people wrote the Bible, but _____ inspired their words. In other words, God gave them the words to write down.

What we learn: God uses the Bible to show us how we should _____.

Matthew 24:35 NIV

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

What we learn: God's word will last _____.

Hebrews 4:12a

For the word of God is alive and powerful.

What we learn: The Bible isn't like any other book ever written. God speaks to us through his word, and it has the _____ to change hearts and lives.

Matthew 7:24 NIV

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

What we learn: God's word gives us _____ for how to live our lives.

Part 2: Q&A

Let's read through some common questions and answers about the Bible!

Is the Bible fiction or non-fiction?

The Bible is filled with lots of stories. But these aren't like the ones you see on TV or in your favorite novel. These stories, which happened thousands of years ago, are all true! What does it mean when we talk about God's kingdom or the kingdom of heaven? The kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven is God's home. While God is everywhere, the kingdom is his home. Everything in his kingdom is perfect. There is no sickness or pain or being afraid. When Jesus lived on the earth, he brought the kingdom of heaven with him, and because we are part of his family, we get access to his kingdom and goodness. We are given the ability to ask God to bring his kingdom into our situations. That's why we can pray for people when they're sick and for courage when they're scared. How cool is that?

Why are parts of the Bible hard to understand?

The Bible was written long ago by people from a different country. It focuses largely on the Jewish people, whose customs and traditions may be unfamiliar to us. To understand what we are reading better, here are some questions we can ask: "Who is writing this passage?" "Who are they writing to or who is their audience?" and "What were they trying to say to them?"

When you come across something difficult to understand, it's okay to ask questions—grown-ups have lots of questions, too! And always remember, the Bible is a really special book. Even though it was written thousands of years ago, God still uses it to invite us into our own Big God Story right now!

Who wrote the Bible? Where was the Bible written?

And more amazing facts about the Bible!

The Bible is the greatest and most important book ever written! Read through and try to guess which number fits into which amazing facts about the Bible with your parent. Then turn to the last page of this booklet to check your answers

3 40 3000 3 66

The Bible was written over _____ years.

About _____ authors wrote the Bible. The authors had many different jobs, including kings, fishermen, tax collectors, prophets, and a physician.

The Bible was written on _____ different continents.

The Bible was written in _____ languages. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic, and the New Testament was written in Greek.

There are _____ books in the Bible.

Here's the incredible part. Even with all the different authors, continents, backgrounds, and languages, the Bible tells ONE cohesive story! How amazing is that?!?

Part 3: What is the One big story of the Bible?

From Genesis to Revelations, the Bible tells ONE story - the gospel story.

The gospel, which translates as "good news," is simply that we have a loving God who is continuously making a way for us to encounter his presence and experience his kingdom in our lives.

In everything you read, look for the ways God is pursuing, redeeming, restoring, and making a way for people to experience his love and power in their lives.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1-2: Creation

The Bible begins with God creating order from chaos. He created man and woman, and we learn that we are all made in God's image. God looks at everything he has created and says it is very good. God places Adam and Eve in a garden, where they enjoy a perfect relationship with God and one another.

Genesis 3-11: The Fall

Adam and Eve are faced with a choice:

- Trust God and live in freedom.
- Listen to the serpent and believe that God is withholding good from them.

They choose to listen to the serpent, and sin enters the world. Adam and Eve are removed from the garden, and we have one of our first foreshadowings of Jesus. Can you find it in Genesis 3:21? (see the last page for more information) God did not let one moment go by without putting into motion his plan to redeem and restore people to himself.

Genesis 12 – Malachi: God’s Chosen People

God promised that the Israelites would be his people and he would be their God. But generation after generation, the people continually turned from God. Over and over again throughout the Old Testament, we read stories of God redeeming, restoring, and loving the people of Israel despite their unfaithfulness. The prophets began telling people that a new leader would be coming. He would be their Messiah. The Old Testament ends with these promises unfulfilled

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew – John: Jesus

Immanuel, God is with us. Jesus, fully God and fully human, is born in a stable in Nazareth. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he fulfilled over 300 prophecies about the coming Messiah. He preaches the good news that the kingdom of heaven is near and teaches a new, completely counter-cultural way of living. Through his death and resurrection, he breaks the power of sin and makes a way for us to be in a relationship with God.

Acts – Jude: The Church

Jesus ascends to heaven, and the Holy Spirit comes and fills all his followers. Word of Jesus spreads, forming communities that follow his teachings. Despite facing challenges, they remain steadfast in sharing his message that the kingdom of heaven is near.

Revelation: Future Hope

The Bible concludes by looking forward to a day when the kingdom of heaven will come in fullness.

Present day: God is still writing his story, and YOU are part of that story. God wants you to know him and have a relationship with him, and he wants you to partner with him to bring his kingdom to earth.

Part 4: Reading God's Word with God

We are going to practice together what it means to read God's word with God. Sometimes, when we read the Bible, God highlights words or ideas and guides us to understand what we are reading. Other times, we may struggle to hear God's voice, and nothing stands out to us. It's normal to experience both. The important thing is that we are open to what God may want to speak to us on any given day.

Begin by praying and inviting God's presence to be with you and speak to you while you read his word. Then, pick one of the stories below to read together and discuss.

David and Goliath
1 Samuel 17:1-50

Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

Heals Paralyzed Man
Mark 2:1-12

Lazarus
John 11:1-44

Feeding of 5000
Mark 6:30-44

Paul's Conversion
Acts 9:1-31

Jesus' Teachings
Luke 6:27-49

Discussion Questions:

What stands out in this story?

Do you have any questions about what you read?

What did you learn about God from this story?

Who are the different people or groups of people in this story? How do you think each group viewed what was happening?

What would it be like to be present when this took place?

What is different about the culture of the people in this story compared to our culture?

What is God teaching you? What is one thing you can do to apply what you are learning?

Part 5: Memorize God's Word Together

When you memorize Bible verses, you keep God's words in your heart and mind. This helps you understand Him better and grow in your faith. When you're feeling scared, sad, or confused, remembering Bible verses can help you feel better and remind you that God is with you.

Below are some suggested verses to memorize as a family. When all of these are memorized, find more verses in your Bible to memorize together!

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.