



30 DAYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

LEADER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

TEXT: 30 Days to Understanding the Bible // By: Max Anders

TIME FRAME: 5 Weeks // 1-2 hours

PRE WEEK: Homework sent to group members to be completed prior to the meeting. Each week it includes reading and a video.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

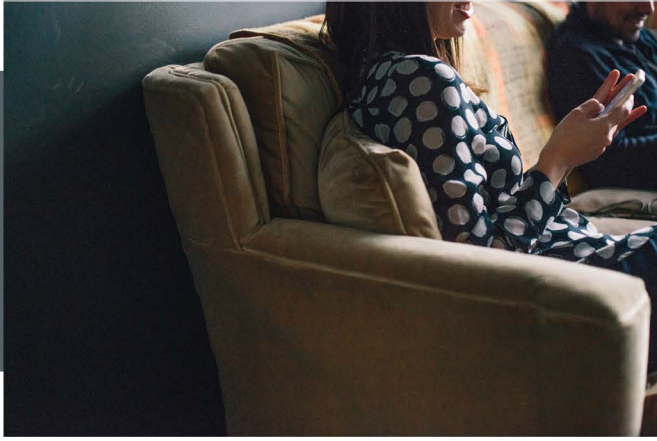
Icebreaker Question (10 mins)
Ask the group "What stood out to you from the reading?" (15 mins)
Ask the group "What stood out to you from the video in the homework?" (5 mins)
Show the weekly video from The Bible Project website (Video length varies)
Ask the provided questions to the group, allowing for discussion. (25 mins)

RESOURCES

www.thebibleproject.com // All videos in this leader guide can be found at this website.

For further learning:
Gotquestions.org // Answers a variety of spiritual questions

Please Note:
Leader hints can be found in blue.
Links to videos are embedded in this PDF. Simply click the title of the video and a pop up window will appear.



WEEK 1

CREATION -> CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

PRE WEEK

WATCH: **The Law** and **Genesis Part 1**

READ: Chapters 1-7

WEEK 1

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the reading?"

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the video in the homework?"

Show Video: *Story of the Bible*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How would you tell someone who has never read the Bible what the overarching story of the Bible is?
- What are some things that you have learned about the character of God from your reading and videos this week?
- From the Genesis 1 video, how do you see the choice of defining good and evil and trusting God play out today? Why is this idea important?
- Why do you think God chose Abraham? (*Genesis 12:2, 17:8*); *Purpose: land, seed, blessing*
- Why did God give the Law? *Protect His people, national identity, setup the need for a Savior*
- What was the pattern from the video? *law/rebellion; emphasize God's grace - constantly returning to them even in their rebellion*
- Who is the audience of the Bible? *people of that time*
- How does this affect our understanding and reading of the Bible? *context and culture are key*
- What was the audience needing to know about God and themselves before they were to take over the Promised Land? *God was with them the whole time and that they constantly rebelled*
- What are ways we resemble the people of Israel?



WEEK 1

CREATION -> CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

MAJOR POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- The Bible is a collection of books/writings.
- The Story of the Bible is how God loves us even though we constantly rebel against Him. However, He has a plan to redeem us back to Him through Jesus.
Essentially: God restoring a broken relationship with his creation. Romans 8:22–24
- God has been passionately pursuing humanity since the creation of the earth. He will never give up and desires for all to know Him. 1 Tim 2:4
- Sin is what separates us from God - it's when we choose our way over God's way.



WEEK 2

JUDGES -> PROPHETS -> SILENCE

PRE WEEK

WATCH: **Image of God**

READ: Chapters 8-14

FURTHER LEARNING: **What is the Bible?**

WEEK 2

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the reading?"

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the video in the homework?"

*Show Video: **Covenants***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did we learn about God from the covenants in the Bible?
- Why do you think God keep forgiving His people?
- What does his forgiveness teach you about his character?
- What is God's voice? How does God's voice change throughout this section?
God's voice moves from judgement (if you don't) to grace (even if you don't)
- How do you reconcile a loving God with the judgements happening to his people?
- What is the pattern of the people of Israel? *Trust God or trust yourself*
- What are ways we resemble the people of Israel?
- What did you learn about God?



WEEK 2

JUDGES -> PROPHETS -> SILENCE

MAJOR POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Patterns of Scripture:
 - Cycle of disobedience
 - Garden of Eden - Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration
 - God was always with them (even with the prophets)
 - Jesus broke the cycle
- Samson - most unrighteous
- Deborah - over all of Israel as a military leader and spiritual leader.
- Went from judges to kingdom - why?
 - Everyone did what was right in their own eyes - Judges 21:25 (book pgs 65-66)*
- David - King but still failed, connection to Jesus, Man after God's own heart even after he failed, *Chosen by God: 2 Sam 7:12, His response after adultery /showing humility and forgiveness: Psalm 51*
- Israel splits: Northern and Southern Kingdom
- Purpose of the prophets was to warn about the results of not obeying or give hope that God would restore His people
 - Hope to come back to Israel: Ezekiel 37:11-12*
 - Prophecy of Jesus, the coming Messiah, to fix everything: Isaiah 53:4-5*



WEEK 3

NEW TESTAMENT -> DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

PRE WEEK

WATCH: **The Messiah**

READ: Chapters 15-19

FURTHER LEARNING: **Design Patterns**

WEEK 3

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the reading?"

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the video in the homework?"

Show Video: **Holiness**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you about how holiness was described in the video?
- How did Jesus change the way holiness was transferred? How significant was this change to our relationship with God today?
- How did Jesus break the cycle of the people of the OT? *Forgiveness and Repentance*
- How is Jesus the fulfillment of the OT? *Old Covenant*
- What is the "true kingdom of God?"
- How are Jesus' death AND resurrection important to you personally? *It's the finality of it, once and for all.*
- Why did God establish the church? What is our role? What is the role of the Holy Spirit?
- How have Paul's efforts impacted us today? *Spread the gospel, show us what the Christian life looks like.*
- What was the purpose of the letters? How do they apply to us today? *Prescriptive: this is how we should act - time principles that apply to us; Descriptive: this is describing what is going on at that particular time*



WEEK 3

NEW TESTAMENT -> DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

MAJOR POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the OT
- Jesus was the fulfillment of the covenants given by God
- Jesus' death and resurrection - purpose of them
- Our purpose as followers of Jesus
- How God's people are both Gentile and Jew - *Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38-39*
- Introduction of the Holy Spirit *Acts 1:4-5*
- Formation and spread of the Church
- Grace vs works? *Ephesians 2:8-10, Hebrews 4:16*
- Royal Priesthood - *1 Peter 2:9*



WEEK 4

-> DOCTRINES ->

PRE WEEK

WATCH: **Core Vs. Periphery**

READ: Chapters 20-24

FURTHER LEARNING: **LUKE PART 1 & LUKE PART 2**

WEEK 4

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the reading?"

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the video in the homework?"

Show Video: **Holy Spirit**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What should our posture be with doctrine?
- What makes the Bible different from other books?
- What is the benefit of studying the Bible?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play with the Bible?
- How are the distinct persons of God important? *This is the tension of being beyond our understanding an infinite God with a finite mind - like explaining an iPhone to someone of the 1600s*
- What attributes of God are easy to connect with? Which are more difficult? *Divine: Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience; Personal: holiness, love, justice*
- How would you explain that God exists to someone?
- What is "God's Will?"
- Why is it important that Christ was a man?
- Why was the resurrection so significant?



WEEK 4

-> DOCTRINES ->

MAJOR POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Not pursuit of knowledge, but pursuit of the person of God
- The Bible originated from God and was delivered through man.
- God is beyond our understanding. *This is a good thing!*
If we think we can comprehend God then we've made Him too small!
Trinity, free will/sovereignty, omnipresent, omniscient, Faith/Trust
- Attributes of God
- Christ is fully God/Fully man
- Importance of resurrection/return
- Importance of the Holy Spirit



WEEK 5

-> DOCTRINES ->

PRE WEEK

WATCH: **Sin**

READ: Chapters 25-30

FURTHER LEARNING: **Sacrifice & Atonement**

WEEK 5

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the reading?"

Ask the group "What stood out to you from the video in the homework?"

Show Video: **Heaven and Earth**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How would you define sin? *missing the mark*
- How does sin affect our relationship with God and with people?
- When you sin, do you look at it as against God or against people?
- Why is it important for us to understand sin and that we are sinners?
- What are the two ways evil ruins things? Why is this important? *Direct: create injustice, actual act; indirect - ruined environment of relationship (vandalism)*
- How does sin affect God space and our space?
- Why don't we use the temple model anymore?
- What did you learn about angels? Why do you think they are covered in doctrine?
- What is unique about humans?
- What is "man's" destiny? *Romans 10:9-10*



WEEK 5

-> DOCTRINES ->

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED:

- Are people inherently bad or good?
- How did humanity become corrupted by sin? What is the result of this? *Romans 3:23; 6:23*
- Does salvation make us perfect? Do we stop sinning? *pg. 237, Romans 7*
- What is required for salvation? *Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16*
- What is the difference between the local church and the universal church? Who is included?
- Why is it important for Christians to be connected to the church?
- What is your role in the church?
- How do future things affect our Christian life today?



WEEK 5

-> DOCTRINES ->

MAJOR POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- There is another realm we do not see and so we need to be ready! *alertness, armor, resistance*
- We are created in the image of God: spiritual/physical, distinctiveness (intellect, emotions, will), destiny (eternal)
- Definition of sin
- Salvation - gift, forgiveness with trust, atonement/cost, completion (work in progress)
- The Church's role in the world today and my part
- Future Things: Jesus will return to make all things right, there is an eternal state with God