

The Bible

Video Presented by Charles Maynard

“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my journey.” **Psalm 119:105**

In one sentence answer: **What is the Bible?**

The United Methodist Church Says This...

“The Holy Bible - We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.” - ***The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline***

“It is not right human thoughts about God that form the content of the Bible, but right divine thoughts about us. The Bible tells us not how we should talk with God, but what God says to us. Not how we find the way to God, but how God has sought and found the way to us. Not the right relation in which we must place ourselves, but the covenant which God has made with all who are Abraham’s spiritual children and which has been sealed once and for all in Jesus Christ.”

- **Karl Barth**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:1

The Bible

- The Bible is a Library (Biblios) of 66 books, written by many people over centuries of time, and is composed of many types of literature. (See Books of the Bible Chart on the last page of this handout)
- The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament, and it was originally written in Hebrew. There are 39 books in the Old Testament.
- The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament, and it was originally written in Greek. There are 27 books in the New Testament.
- The Bible reveals God's Word, helping us to know Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Look back at the quote from the Book of Discipline. What should be the true guide for our faith in Jesus? What role does the Bible play in your life?
2. Is it easy to assume TRUTH and FACTS are the same thing? When you read the Bible, are you more interested in finding TRUTH or counting FACTS?
3. Can we only use a literal approach (meaning, "by the words") to interpret the Bible? Or are there other paths to understanding scripture?
4. How do we translate scriptures from the Bible into our life and experience? How does the Bible guide you in loving God and neighbor, and in living a life of faith, hope, and love?
5. Now how would you answer: **What is the Bible?**

"The whole purpose of the Bible, it seems to me, is to convince people to set the written word down in order to become living words in the world for God's sake. For me, this willing conversion of ink back to blood is the full substance of faith."

- **Barbara Brown Taylor**

If you are wondering where to begin reading the Bible, the Gospels, which are the first four books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) of the New Testament are where we recommend. For more information on the Bible see our video study “Bible 101” at cokesbury.tv/online-study

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy
Numbers
Leviticus
Exodus
Genesis

THE LAW

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

HISTORY

Song of Songs
Ecclesiastes
Proverbs
Psalms
Job

POETRY & WISDOM

Daniel
Ezekiel
Lamentations
Jeremiah
Isaiah

MAJOR PROPHETS

Malachi
Zechariah
Haggai
Zephaniah
Habakkuk
Nahum
Micah
Jonah
Obadiah
Amos
Joel
Hosea

MINOR PROPHETS

NEW TESTAMENT

John
Luke
Mark
Matthew

GOSPELS
GOOD NEWS

Acts

HISTORY

Philemon
Titus
2 Timothy
1 Timothy
2 Thessalonians
1 Thessalonians
Colossians
Philippians
Ephesians
Galatians
2 Corinthians
1 Corinthians
Romans

PAUL'S LETTERS

Jude
3 John
2 John
1 John
2 Peter
1 Peter
James
Hebrews

GENERAL LETTERS

Revelation

PROPHECY