

The Bible Tells Me So

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 January 9, 2022
“Making Sense of the Bible”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this amazing book we call the Bible. We thank you for those individuals who you inspired to write it down for us and we thank you for preserving all of these documents. Today we pray that you would give us wisdom to know what to do with what we read and then give us the courage to do it. We pray that we would come to love this book, to wrestle with this book and to be shaped by it. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

II Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible contains some of the loftiest and most beautiful verses in literature. Millions look to it for inspiration and guidance. At the same time, some parts are confusing and others are deeply disturbing. So how do we make sense of the Bible? Is it okay to wrestle and question Scripture?

The Bible is a collection of 66 ancient documents written over 1,400 years. These documents have both a human and divine component and they become the primary way in which God speaks to us. But we must remember that the unmitigated Word of God was Jesus Christ. So we need to view scripture through the lens of Jesus. The Bible is a story that gives life, so let's read it, sometimes wrestle with it, and be shaped by it.

QUESTIONS

1. How were you first introduced to the Bible? What people and ideas do you associate with that time?
2. When have you felt that the Bible was speaking directly to you?
3. Have you seen situations in which someone has used the Bible to create dissension and even hatred? Why do you think this happens?
4. It's possible that you or someone you know left their faith because of something in the Bible. What is it that you or they didn't believe?
5. Read John 20:30-31 on page 1. How does John describe his purpose for writing? What do you think John meant by “have life in his name”?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, commit to reading scripture on 5 days.