

BELOVED DISCIPLES LEARNING COURSES

READING THE BIBLE

Quick Resources to Watch:

- Pastor Kevin's sermon, "To Scripture"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uG5wEw-YCA&t=2s>
- Ben Stuart's sermon, "Can We Really Trust the Bible?"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESo-bpVvrPY>

Quick Resources to Read:

- "Read the Bible with Your Heart," by Jon Bloom
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/read-the-bible-with-your-heart>
- "When We Don't Delight In Reading Scripture," by Joe Carter
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/delight-reading-scripture/>

Helpful Tools When Reading Scripture:

- The Bible Project Guides
<https://bibleproject.com/guides/>
- Logos Bible Software
<https://www.logos.com/>
- The Gospel Coalition's Free Online Commentary
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/>

Recommended In-Depth Readings:

- "How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth," by Duvall and Hayes
<https://www.amazon.com/How-Read-Bible-All-Worth-ebook/dp/B00GS084YA/>
- "Women of the Word" by Jen Wilkin
<https://www.amazon.com/Women-Word-Foreword-Matt-Chandler-ebook/dp/B07QBD9BYR/>



“How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth,” by Duvall and Hayes

Reading Discussion Guide

Introduction

1. Reflection Question: What are your initial thoughts on the importance of understanding how to read the Bible properly, as introduced by Fee and Stuart?
2. Reflection Question: What motivated you to read this book? What do you hope to learn or achieve by the end?

Chapter 1: The Need to Interpret

1. Reflection Question: Why do Fee and Stuart argue that interpretation is necessary when reading the Bible?
2. Reflection Question: How has your approach to Bible reading changed after understanding the need for interpretation?

Chapter 2: The Basic Tool: A Good Translation

1. Reflection Question: What factors do Fee and Stuart say are important in choosing a good Bible translation?
2. Reflection Question: How do the different translation approaches (formal equivalence, dynamic equivalence, and paraphrase) impact your understanding of the text?

Chapter 3: The Epistles: Learning to Think Contextually

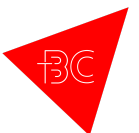
1. Reflection Question: What does it mean to read the Epistles contextually, according to Fee and Stuart?
2. Reflection Question: How can understanding the historical and cultural context of the Epistles enhance your interpretation?

Chapter 4: The Old Testament Narratives: Their Proper Use

1. Reflection Question: What guidelines do Fee and Stuart provide for interpreting Old Testament narratives?
2. Reflection Question: How can recognizing the purpose of these narratives affect your application of their lessons?

Chapter 5: Acts: The Question of Historical Precedent

1. Reflection Question: How do Fee and Stuart differentiate between descriptive and prescriptive passages in Acts?
2. Reflection Question: How can you determine when a passage in Acts sets a precedent for modern Christian practice?



Chapter 6: The Gospels: One Story, Many Dimensions

1. Reflection Question: What challenges do Fee and Stuart highlight when interpreting the Gospels?
2. Reflection Question: How can you better understand the unique perspectives and emphases of each Gospel writer?

Chapter 7: The Parables: Do You Get the Point?

1. Reflection Question: What principles do Fee and Stuart outline for interpreting parables?
2. Reflection Question: How can identifying the main point of a parable improve your understanding and application of its message?

Chapter 8: The Law(s): Covenant Stipulations for Israel

1. Reflection Question: How do Fee and Stuart suggest we approach the Old Testament Law as modern readers?
2. Reflection Question: How can understanding the context and purpose of the Law help you apply its principles today?

Chapter 9: The Prophets: Enforcing the Covenant in Israel

1. Reflection Question: What are the key elements to consider when interpreting the prophetic books?
2. Reflection Question: How can the messages of the prophets be relevant to contemporary issues and personal life?

Chapter 10: The Psalms: Israel's Prayers and Ours

1. Reflection Question: How do Fee and Stuart explain the different types of Psalms and their purposes?
2. Reflection Question: How can you incorporate the Psalms into your own prayer and worship life?

Chapter 11: Wisdom: Then and Now

1. Reflection Question: What insights do Fee and Stuart provide about interpreting wisdom literature, such as Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes?
2. Reflection Question: How can you apply the principles of wisdom literature to your daily decisions and challenges?

Chapter 12: The Revelation: Images of Judgment and Hope

1. Reflection Question: What approaches do Fee and Stuart recommend for interpreting the book of Revelation?



2. Reflection Question: How can you balance the symbolic and literal elements of Revelation in your interpretation?

Conclusion

1. Reflection Question: Reflect on your overall experience reading the book. What are the most impactful lessons you've learned about interpreting the Bible?
2. Reflection Question: How will you apply the insights and principles from this book to your daily Bible reading and study?

Personal Reflection:

- Reflection Question: Write a personal reflection on how this book has influenced your understanding and practice of Bible reading.
- Reflection Question: Identify one or two key takeaways that you will implement to enhance your Bible study habits.

Group Discussion:

1. Reflection Question: What was the most surprising or enlightening part of the book for you?
2. Reflection Question: How can we support each other in applying the principles discussed in this book to our Bible study practices?

Prayer and Commitment:

1. Reflection Question: Spend some time in prayer, asking for guidance and strength to apply the teachings of this book to your Bible reading.
2. Reflection Question: Consider making a commitment to regularly review and discuss the principles from this book with a trusted group of friends or within a small group.



“Women of the Word,” by Jen Wilkin

Reading Discussion Guide

Introduction

1. Reflection Question: What are your initial thoughts on the importance of studying the Bible with intentionality, as introduced by Jen Wilkin?
2. Reflection Question: What motivated you to read this book? What do you hope to learn or achieve by the end?

Chapter 1: Introduction to Bible Study

1. Reflection Question: How does Jen Wilkin define biblical literacy, and why is it essential for women (and all Christians)?
2. Reflection Question: What insights did you gain about the purpose and benefits of studying the Bible from this chapter?

Chapter 2: The Case for Bible Literacy

1. Reflection Question: What arguments does Wilkin present to emphasize the importance of becoming biblically literate?
2. Reflection Question: How can you apply Wilkin's arguments to motivate yourself or others to prioritize Bible study?

Chapter 3: The Need for Training Wheels

1. Reflection Question: What are "training wheels" in Bible study, according to Wilkin, and why are they necessary?
2. Reflection Question: How can you implement the principles of systematic Bible study in your personal study routine?

Chapter 4: Comprehension: Understand What It Says

1. Reflection Question: How does Wilkin explain the difference between comprehension and interpretation in Bible study?
2. Reflection Question: What methods can you use to improve your comprehension of biblical passages?

Chapter 5: Interpretation: What Does It Mean?

1. Reflection Question: What principles does Wilkin offer for interpreting Scripture accurately?
2. Reflection Question: How can you avoid common pitfalls in interpretation and apply sound principles to understand Scripture better?



Chapter 6: Application: How Does It Apply?

1. Reflection Question: How does Wilkin connect application to interpretation and comprehension?
2. Reflection Question: What practical steps can you take to ensure that your Bible study leads to meaningful application in your life?

Chapter 7: The Role of Prayer

1. Reflection Question: How does Wilkin discuss the role of prayer in Bible study?
2. Reflection Question: How can you integrate prayer more effectively into your study of Scripture?

Chapter 8: Persistence

1. Reflection Question: What encouragement does Wilkin provide for developing persistence in Bible study?
2. Reflection Question: How can you cultivate a habit of consistent and persistent Bible study in your life?

Conclusion

1. Reflection Question: Reflect on your overall experience reading the book. What are the most impactful lessons you've learned about studying the Bible as a woman?
2. Reflection Question: How will you apply the insights and principles from this book to your daily Bible study habits and spiritual growth?

Personal Reflection:

- Reflection Question: Write a personal reflection on how this book has influenced your approach to studying the Bible.
- Reflection Question: Identify one or two key takeaways that you will implement to enhance your biblical literacy and study habits.

Group Discussion:

1. Reflection Question: What was the most surprising or enlightening part of the book for you?
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