



The Bible can be confusing—to insiders and outsiders. For some critics, the Bible seems outdated, inconsistent, and full of things too fanciful to be believed. Is the Bible an outdated magic book? If not, how should the Christian use it and speak of it?

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breakers:

(1) Why do you think God wrote a book?

(2) What words come to mind when I say “Bible reading or Bible study”: boring, interesting, easy, hard?, etc.?

READ REVERENTLY. Read Isaiah 55:10-11. What does it mean to see Scripture as the very words of God? What does it mean to say, “the Bible is the Church’s book?”

READ CONFIDENTLY. Read 2 Peter 1:16. Why should we trust that the Bible was inspired, carefully preserved, and translated well? What does it mean to say, “the Bible can be trusted?”

READ WONDROUSLY. Read Exodus 33:11. Why should we relish the Bible as a story full of wonder? How does our attitude, mood, anticipation, and joy change when reading a thrilling novel vs. reading a history book? How is it life-changing to see Scripture as God talking with you as talking to a friend? What does it mean to say, “the Bible should be treasured?”

READ HUMBLY. Read Nehemiah 8:8; Luke 24:27; Acts 8:30-31. Why is interpretation important? How does genre affect interpretation? Why is it important to believe the Bible is meant to be understood?

READ COMMUNALLY. Read 1 Corinthians 11:2. Why is “tradition” not a bad word? How is it helpful to hear from voices other than our own when interpreting the Bible? Why is it helpful to examine how Christians have interpreted Scripture for centuries?

READ DEVOTIONALLY. Read Mark 3:14. One goal for the original disciples was to be “with” Jesus, and for Jesus to be “with” them. What does it mean to move our goal of Bible reading from being “for” God or even “under” God to being “with” God? What does it mean to say, “the Bible should be transforming”?

READ OBEDIENTLY. Read Deuteronomy 12:28. How does Scripture call us to obedience? What does it mean to “live” out the story of Scripture? How can we move beyond being “people of the Book” to being “people of the God of the Book?”