THE LOVED BIBLE PROJECT

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

WHAT IS THE BIBLE

The Bible is sufficient to lead us to Christ
(2 Timothy 3:15,17)

The Bible is authoritative
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible is without error
(John 17:17)

The Bible is the Christian's joy and delight
(Psalm 1, Psalm 119:24)

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Sixty-six books comprise the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.
About 40 different human authors contributed, over a period of almost 1500 years. The authors were a diverse group: kings, fishermen, farmers, priests, government officials, shepherds, and doctors. The literary styles include books of law, history, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, biography, and formal letters. Yet, there's great unity with common themes woven throughout (Luke 1:1-5).

The Bible provides all that we need to understand:

Who God is.

Who we are in relation to Him.

How He made us to live in this world He created.

JOHN 6:44-47

The Bible you possess is evidence that God loves you and wants a relationship with you. No matter who you are or how many times you've spurned his love, he is still moving toward you, still talking to you—still befriending you—through a book."

- Matt Smethurst, Before You Open Your Bible

"As Christians, we come face to face with God through the Scriptures. We begin to understand who he is and what he has done for sinners like us. When we taste the goodness of God through the gospel, we delight. And this is a taste that we pray we can never get out of our mouths! So we work to meditate, to chew, to enjoy the Word of God and the God of the Word."
- Erik Raymond

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WHO IS JESUS?

JESUS

John 1:1-18 reminds us that the promises beginning in the book of Genesis and continuing through the entire Old Testament are finally realized in Jesus Christ. He is the promised Messiah. He's the answer to man's need for a Savior.

This man is far more than a man, he is God became man."

- Matt Carter

Jesus rules as King over heaven and earth

Revelation 17:14

HIS RESURRECTION DEFEATED DEATH & BROUGHT NEW LIFE.

"Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. He is alive! He lives for us and, by his Spirit, he lives in us and works through us."

- Jeff Vanderstelt, Saturate

IN CHRIST

The apostle Paul's phrase "in Christ" indicates the intimate relationship between Jesus Christ and his people

(Colossians 3:1-3, 1 Corinthians 6:17).

JESUS

His death on the cross defeated sins' power and consequence.

1 Peter 2:24, Colossians 2:13-15

NOTHING

was created without Jesus.

John 1:3, Colossians 1:16

"If you're God's child, the final chapter of your story will take place in an eternal paradise beyond your wildest dreams."

- Paul Tripp

Jesus lived a life without sin. There is no salvation apart from him.

Hebrews 4:14-15,
John 14:6

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WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

what is the gospel?

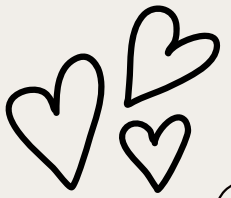
The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of what Jesus did on our behalf through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

It's the work of God that saves, sanctifies, and sustains His people. All of humanity is born into a state of sin, without Christ and separated from God. That's the bad news. But God, because of his great love, made a way to restore us into his presence. This is the good news! He sent Jesus to be the perfect human—fully God and fully man—to take the punishment for the sins of all people who repent and believe in Him (John 3:16-18).

the gospel

- ☐ **saves** us,
- ☐ **sanctifies** us,
- ☐ and **sustains** us!
- ☐ We never grow out of our need for the gospel.

REPENT & BELIEVE



The gospel is about GOD'S LOVE

The gospel brings life!

Romans 6:23, Leviticus 5:14-6:7

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-2

We never outgrow our need for the gospel

Sinners need the gospel for salvation; rescue from death. Saints need the gospel to grow in understanding of Christ and knowing how to live. And until Jesus returns, we continually need the gospel to sustain us, carrying us with hope, power, wisdom, and lasting joy.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 describes how the gospel saves us, keeps working to sanctify us, and continually sustains us as we cling to the truth of God's Word.

The GOSPEL

"When we believe the gospel, it changes everything. Our understanding of our past, present, and future is reoriented from a self-focused way of life to a Jesus-focused way of life."

- Jen Oshman

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IDENTITY

IDENTITY

John 1:1-18 reminds us that the promises beginning in the book of Genesis and continuing through the entire Old Testament are finally realized in Jesus Christ. He is the promised Messiah. He's the answer to man's need for a Savior.

This man is far more than a man, he is God became man."

- Matt Carter

God made man and woman in His image – the Imago Dei

Genesis 1:25-27

PURPOSE

"No matter what our job is, we view it not as our purpose in life but rather as where God has sovereignly placed us for the purpose of making Christ known and his name great. If you are a teacher, if you are a politician, if you are a businessman, if you are in agriculture, if you are in construction, if you are in technology, if you are in the arts, then you should not be saying, 'I need to find my life's purpose in this work,' but rather, **'I need to bring God's purpose to this work.'"**

- Matt Chandler, Explicit Gospel

"What does the gospel say you have been given right here, right now, so that you can be what you've been called to be and do what you've been called to do? The answer is Christ! He is in you. He is with you. He is for you."

- Paul Tripp

"But God tells us in his Word that there is **no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus**. That means if you are found **in Christ, God does not disapprove of you.** In fact, his response to you is just the opposite. God not only approves of you, he even counts you as righteous because of his Son."

Trillia Newbell, If God is For Us

In Christ, we have true freedom and power.

John 8:36
Galatians 4:1-7
2 Timothy 1:7

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RELATIONSHIPS

"When we seek the greater good of the Kingdom over our own personal preferences and desires... relationships can thrive amid imperfection and even offenses. 'We are not in competition; we are in community."

- Laura Wifler & Emily Jensen

"The gospel transforms our relationships by giving us one purpose in them: To become more like Christ."

- Jaquelle Crowe

"Nowhere does the Bible say, 'Love one another moderately.' This world is a loving place. But our love is moderate, cautious, guarded. We make sure we don't get over- extended. Jesus frees us to love earnestly."

- Ray Ortlund

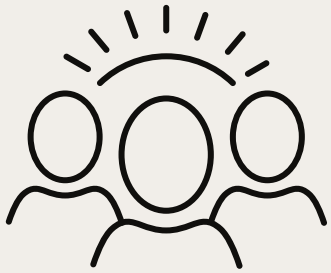
A NEW COMMUNITY

"We now have a new community in Christ. When God saves sinners, he brings them into community. This new community, called the Church, is made up of various groups of people, united in Jesus...Are we living out our corporate identity by belonging to a local, visible church?

Do we have brothers and sisters with whom we love, serve, weep, rejoice, and celebrate?

We were saved for community."

- Tony Merida

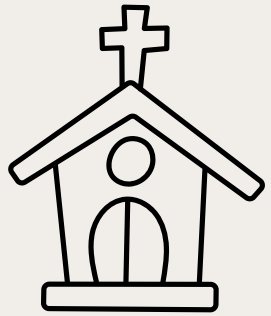


"A Jesus-centered community is an attractive community —a community that encourages, forgives, serves, loves, and invites non-Christians into its community."

- Jonathan K. Dodson

"The church is where we encourage each other while we wait for Jesus to return."

- Laura Wifler & Emily Jensen



Gospel relationships serve others before oneself, like Christ did.

Luke 22:27
Colossians 3:12-14

THE LOVED BIBLE PROJECT

CHANGE

Throughout history, people have experienced change by studying the Bible, applying it to everyday life, and patiently helping others do the same. God will reveal his work in you and others as you pursue him and his purposes.

"Quit being paralyzed by your past. Grace offers you life in the present and a guarantee of a future."

- Paul David Tripp, New Morning Mercies

"Gospel-centered discipleship is not about how we perform but who we are— imperfect people, clinging to a perfect Christ, being perfected by the Spirit."

Jonathan K. Dodson

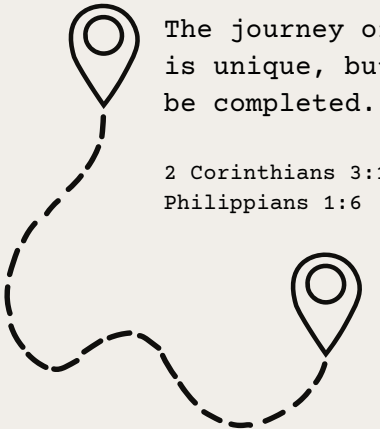
ABIDE

"Abiding in Jesus will produce all the fruits of the Spirit in you, but not because you're concentrating specifically on any of them. You're concentrating instead on Jesus. You're resting in His love and acceptance. Then pretty soon you're growing more patience, developing greater self-discipline, becoming increasingly generous. It's the abiding difference of the Gospel."

- J.D. Greear

Those who receive salvation will pursue holiness in Christ's strength.

Romans 6:12-14
1 Peter 1:13-16
Hebrews 12:14



The journey of change is unique, but will be completed.

2 Corinthians 3:18
Philippians 1:6

God uses Christians to help others.

Matthew 5:14-16
Hebrews 10:24

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EMPOWERED

One of the most common questions asked by people after they receive the gospel is, "What is God's will for my life?"

God saves AND empowers people for his purposes. There are so many privileges and meaningful experiences for those who respond to the gospel with gratitude and devotion.

The Apostle Paul often used the imagery of a race when describing the Christian life. He wrote, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it." (1 Corinthians 9:24) Likewise the writer of Hebrews stated, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

TRUST

OBEY

PRIORITIZE

SEEK

GET INVOLVED

SPEAK

BE GENEROUS

"The Gospel doesn't just bring about forgiveness of sins and save us from hell. The Gospel of Jesus Christ empowers us to live a whole new life today by the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. There's no greater power than that."

- Jeff Vanderstelt, Gospel Fluency

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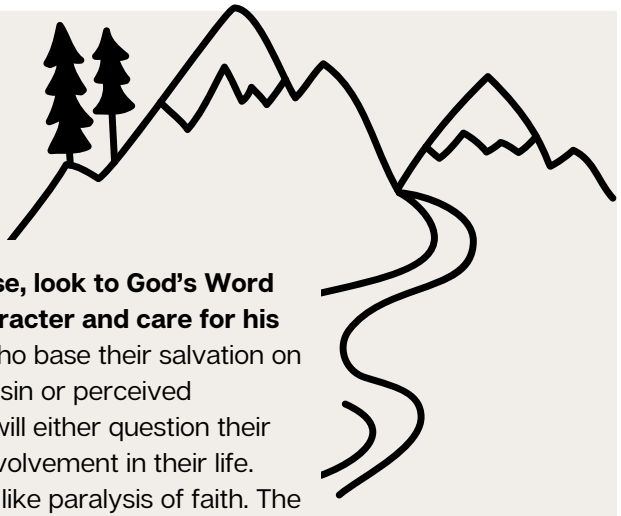
SECURITY



When doubts or fears arise, look to God's Word to be reminded of his character and care for his people. Too often, those who base their salvation on their current battle against sin or perceived slowness of sanctification will either question their salvation or doubt God's involvement in their life. This can lead to what feels like paralysis of faith. The Christian life will have its ups and downs, yet God never abandons his people.

(Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:9, Matthew 28:20)

"When tragedy comes, whether we battle sin or sorrow, we never face these foes alone. His Spirit, which hems us in behind and before, also indwells us. He is all around us, and he is in us. How secure are we?"

- Jen Wilkin

"Throughout Scripture, we see God's people facing impossible odds. Whether it be the Israelites against the powerful Egyptians *(Ex. 14:13)*, the giants in the land *(Num. 13)*, or the Assyrians *(2 Chr. 32:7–8)*, God tells them not to fear. He doesn't always tell them how he's going to provide; he simply tells them to trust and obey."

- James Williams

Those who receive salvation will pursue holiness in Christ's strength.

Romans 6:12-14
1 Peter 1:13-16
Hebrews 12:14

Nothing can separate God's people from love and salvation.

CELEBRATE

"The marker of those who understand the gospel of Jesus Christ is that, when they stumble and fall, when they screw up, they run to God and not from him, because they clearly understand that their acceptance before God is not predicated upon their behavior but on the righteous life of Jesus Christ and his sacrificial death."

- Matt Chandler, Explicit Gospel

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MULTIPLY

make disciples

"In a culture of discipleship, we read and speak the Word to each other. We spend time with each other. We pray for one another. We love. We give. We attend the weekly gathering prayerfully and with anticipation...We follow the examples of our leaders who show us how to follow Christ ourselves."

- Mark Dever

Those who receive salvation will pursue holiness in Christ's strength.

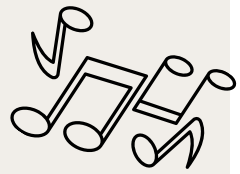
Romans 6:12-14
1 Peter 1:13-16
Hebrews 12:14

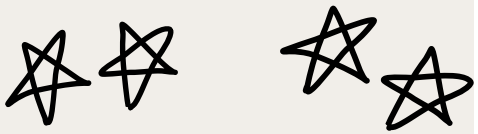
humility

AMBASADOR

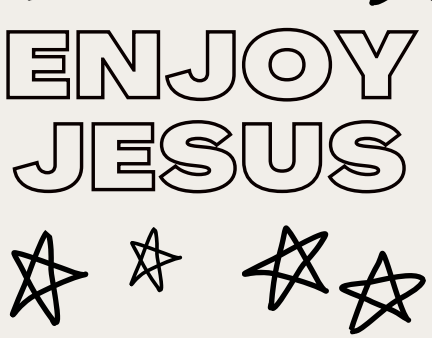
Discipleship happens in the normal rhythms of life.

Titus 2:1-10





ENJOY JESUS



"Making disciples requires not only 'sharing our faith,' but also sharing our lives— failures and successes, disobedience and obedience."

- Jonathan Dodson

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ATTRIBUTES 1

ALL KNOWING

CREATOR

GENEROUS

ALMIGHTY

HOW TO USE: If you are working on a Loved Bible, younger children can participate using these templates. Depending on the age, use letter stickers to stick on top of the attribute name or have the child trace the lettering. They can decorate the back of the card. If they can write, have them write out the definition of the attribute on the card. They can cut the cards out. They can also practice looking up the Scriptures, highlight (a crayon is helpful), and taping the card in the Bible.

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ATTRIBUTES 2

DELIVERER

GLORIOUS

ATTENTIVE

ETERNAL

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ATTRIBUTES 3

GRACIOUS

COMPASSIONATE

FAITHFUL

GOOD

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ATTRIBUTES 4

HOLY

JUST

PATIENT

WISE

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ATTRIBUTES 5

LOVING

REFUGE

INFINTITE

MERCIFUL

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ATTRIBUTES 6

RIGHTEOUS

JEALOUS

OMNIPRESENT

SELF-SUFFICIENT

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ATTRIBUTES 7

SOVEREIGN

UNCHANGING

WORTHY

TRUE

HOW TO USE: If you are working on a Loved Bible, younger children can participate using these templates. Depending on the age, use letter stickers to stick on top of the attribute name or have the child trace the lettering. They can decorate the back of the card. If they can write, have them write out the definition of the attribute on the card. They can cut the cards out. They can also practice looking up the Scriptures, highlight (a crayon is helpful), and taping the card in the Bible.