THE
LOVED BIBLE
PROJECT

Foundations: Essentials

3 GOSPEL TRUTHS TO ESTABLISH YOUR FAITH

WHAT THE BIBLE IS, WHO JESUS IS,
AND WHY THE GOSPEL MATTERS

THE LOVED BIBLE PROJECT

A tool designed to help ordinary people make disciples through the use of the Bible.

@TheLovedBibleProject

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From Our Founder

THE LOVED BIBLE STORY

When **The Loved Bible Project** began, it all started with a Bible where I copied notes from my devotional, *New Morning Mercies* by Paul David Tripp, and gave it to a homeless man. That man found me again and asked for more Bibles—more specifically, more "loved" Bibles. From that moment on, I gathered friends to help create and give away "Loved" Bibles.

As I began gathering and creating **Loved Bibles**, I discovered it was a simple way to disciple others. As we talked through "What should I add to a Loved Bible?" a group of wise friends and I came together to answer that question, and the result is what you are holding in your hands.

When you use this resource to create a **Loved Bible**, it becomes a tool to help you understand the Bible. Whether you're not yet a believer and exploring Christianity, a new believer, or a seasoned believer growing in discipleship, this workbook is designed to help you connect the dots.

Recently, I organized my pantry and found myself standing there, unsure where to start in putting together a meal. It reminded me of how we sometimes approach our faith—feeling overwhelmed by all the different pieces. Just like organizing a pantry, it's important to understand how the various aspects of faith—such as the Bible, Jesus, the gospel, our identity, the church, how we change, the role of the Holy Spirit, our assurance, and making disciples—fit together. When organizing a pantry, we start by knowing the basic categories (like baking, pasta, protein, snacks, and soups). Similarly, understanding these foundational categories in our faith helps us make sense of how everything works together to form a complete picture.

This first workbook focuses on three foundational truths of the Christian faith: **What is the Bible, Who is Jesus, and What is the Gospel**. Answering these questions are necessary to establish your faith before moving on to the six additional truths that guide you in living out your faith.

My hope is that you will use this resource in a small group (3-4 people), led by a mature believer. I'll share more ideas on structure and logistics in the following pages, but the goal is to create a space for deep conversation, opportunities to wrestle with questions, and discover answers in Scripture. As you journey through this workbook, my prayer is that you will not only gain a deeper understanding of the foundational truths of the Christian faith but also experience the transformative power of the gospel in your life. The gospel changes everything—it reshapes our identity, redefines our purpose, and empowers us to live and love like Jesus.

Whether you are just beginning to explore the faith or are a seasoned believer, remember that the process of growing in faith is ongoing. May this workbook serve as a catalyst for deeper understanding and cultivate trusted relationships. Thank you for taking this step, and may your faith grow stronger and deeper as you continue to seek and apply God's Word.

Anne Marie
Founder, *The Loved Bible Project*

About Us

WHAT IS A LOVED BIBLE?

A Loved Bible **equips ordinary people to make disciples** through the use of the Bible. Whether you're new to the Bible or looking to deepen your understanding, a Loved Bible is a valuable tool to help you grow in confidence as you engage with God's Word and guide others to do the same.

The process of creating a Loved Bible isn't just about highlighting verses or adding notes—it's about immersing yourself in God's Word so **the truth of the gospel renews your mind, shapes your heart, and transforms your everyday life**. Slowing down to engage with Scripture creates an active learning environment, helping you see the overarching story of the Bible, grow more confident in navigating it, and become better equipped to share it with others.

WHO ARE WE?

We are an ever-growing, biblically-literate global community of men and women who love and share God's Word. By delighting in the Scriptures, we seek to honor God, make much of Jesus, and trust the Holy Spirit's power in helping others find insightful joy in God's Word.

WHAT TO EXPECT

When you engage with The Loved Bible Project, you can expect:

- **Familiarity in Navigating the Scriptures:** Learn how to confidently open, read, and understand the Bible.
- **Confidence in Sharing the Gospel:** Grow in your ability to clearly and boldly share the good news of Jesus.
- **Guidance in Making Disciples of Jesus:** Practical tools and encouragement to disciple others in their faith journey.
- **Community with Others Doing the Same:** Join a network of people passionate about loving and sharing God's Word.
- **Transformation and Joy in Knowing God:** Experience the life-changing power of Scripture in your own heart and life.

For Leaders

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Foundations: Essentials is designed to be flexible, adaptable to different group sizes, settings, and stages of spiritual growth. Whether you are using for the curious or a new believer, exploring faith for the first time, or walking alongside others in discipleship, this resource can serve as a guide for meaningful conversations about the Bible, Jesus, and the gospel.

Here are some ways to use it effectively:

Micro Groups (2–4 People)

These intimate groups allow for deep, personal connections and accountability. Typically led by a mature believer, micro groups create space for honest discussions, prayer, and life-on-life discipleship. The small size encourages each person to engage fully, ask questions, and apply the gospel personally.

Small Groups (5–15 People)

In a small group setting, a mature believer leads with an intentional focus on both group discussion and individual mentoring relationships. This environment fosters community, shared learning, and spiritual growth. We encourage inviting other believers to come alongside newer members for one-on-one mentoring outside of group gatherings, reinforcing what's being learned and providing additional support.

Youth Groups

Foundations: Essentials can be a powerful tool for middle and high school students, helping them explore the foundations of their faith in a way that's clear and relatable. Leaders can adapt the material to be interactive, using creative activities, real-life applications, and discussion questions that resonate with students' everyday experiences.

Discipleship Training Groups

For churches, ministries, or leadership development programs, this resource can be used to train and equip believers to disciple others. Whether part of a formal discipleship track or an informal gathering of people eager to grow, the content provides a solid framework for understanding and communicating the essentials of the Christian faith.

GROUP DISCUSSION

We recommend working through this workbook in community. You can decide to use this workbook simply as a discussion guide and talk through it or as a guide to create an active learning environment by engaging with the text highlighting and adding notes into your Bible.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED

You will need a Bible, pen, colored pencils, and sticky notes. Colored pencils are great for highlighting and sticky notes are perfect for adding key truths to your Bible. Suggestion: Consider providing the same Bible to all participants in your group - this helps everyone start on common ground and you can navigate to Scripture using page numbers.

A NOTE ABOUT QUOTES

We're so grateful for gifted writers and teachers who help explain Scripture, but always remember the Bible is your primary source of truth. We don't endorse all authors or all literary works by a particular writer, but we've found these quotes and resources to be helpful in our spiritual growth. It's important to never permanently cover up any of the Scripture.

HOMEWORK AND PREPARATION

Prepare for the group discussion by reading the section material beforehand. We suggest looking up Scriptures and highlighting and adding notes to create an active learning environment.

- As participants read through this resource, have them highlight anything new or interesting they learn or put a "?" next to anything confusing.
- Add any questions or notes to the margins
- Look up any Scriptures referenced. Highlight with a colored pencil in your Bible.
- Is there a note that would help you remember what the Scripture means? Add it using a sticky note near the Scripture.

DIGGING DEEPER

This workbook includes links to additional resources on our website to help you explore topics further. Find articles to deepen your understanding, grow in your faith, and equip you as a leader or for participants curious and ready to learn more.

Welcome to Foundations: Essentials

3 GOSPEL TRUTHS TO ESTABLISH YOUR FAITH

Whether you're exploring Christianity, have recently started following Jesus, or have been a believer for years and want to strengthen your understanding of the gospel, we're so glad you're here. This resource is designed to help you grasp the foundational truths of the Christian faith and see how they apply to your life, no matter where you are on your journey.

One key question we'll explore is: **What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?** Together, we'll uncover what the Bible says about who Jesus is, what the gospel is, and how these truths shape our identity, purpose, and everyday lives.

What is a disciple of Jesus?

A disciple is a learner—someone who seeks to understand, grow, and become like the one they follow. A disciple of Jesus is someone who has been made alive by the Holy Spirit, given a new heart to trust in Him, and is being transformed to reflect His life.

Discipleship doesn't begin with our effort—it begins with God. As Scripture reminds us, human wisdom alone cannot lead us to Him (1 Corinthians 1:19). It is the Spirit who opens our hearts, draws us to Jesus, and gives us the desire and strength to follow Him. Here's what the life of a disciple begins to look like:

1

A DISCIPLE FOLLOWS JESUS

Jesus called His first disciples with the simple words, "Follow Me," and they left everything to follow Him **(Matthew 4:18-22)**. Being a disciple begins with saying "yes" to Jesus, empowered by His grace and help each day.

2

A DISCIPLE BUILDS A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Jesus' disciples spent time with Him—listening, asking questions, and learning. You can build a relationship with Him through prayer, reading the Bible, spending time with His family (the church), and noticing His presence daily.

3

A DISCIPLE HELPS OTHERS FOLLOW JESUS

Jesus commanded His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations" **(Matthew 28:19-20)**. As you grow, you'll naturally share what you're learning with others and help them grow too.

4

A DISCIPLE SERVES OTHERS WITH LOVE

Jesus served with humility and compassion—even washing His disciples' feet **(John 13:14-15)**. As His followers, we're called to serve not for recognition, but out of love. The Spirit shapes our hearts to serve others with joy, just as Jesus did.

5

A DISCIPLE SHARES THE GOOD NEWS

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and He sends us to share that same message **(Acts 1:8)**. We don't have to rely on perfect words or bold personalities—the Holy Spirit empowers us to speak with love and truth, and He is the one who prepares hearts to receive the gospel.

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Being a disciple isn't about perfection—it's about progress.

Take one step at a time as the Holy Spirit helps you know Jesus more, trust Him deeper, and live and love like Him.

If you're unsure about following Jesus, use this resource to explore who He is and what it means to trust Him as Lord and Savior. If you've already decided to follow Him, this resource will help you grow and equip you to guide others.

Jesus invites you to follow Him. He loves you and wants to transform your life. Our prayer is that, by the Spirit's power, you'll discover the joy, peace, purpose, and hope found in Him.

Parking Lot

This page is your space
to jot down questions or topics that come up
as you work through the workbook. It helps keep discussions focused
while saving those thoughts for later exploration. Use this “parking lot” to capture
anything you want to dig into further.

Prepare Your Heart

ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH INTENTION

Scan Me
To dive deeper!

Rather than jumping right into the **Word of God**, it's important to make sure your heart and mind are in the right place. Spend a few minutes doing this before you start. *Begin with quiet stillness.*

SOME WAYS YOU CAN PREPARE YOUR HEART:

- Choose a Psalm to read. Ask God to shape your heart and mind with the words of Scripture. As you read, think about God's love and praise Him!
- Choose a devotional to read. New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp is a great one. As you read, be still and ask God to show you more of Himself through His Word.
- Practice praying. Use the ACTS model to help guide you. Be still and listen to the Holy Spirit speak to your heart.

3 "PREPARE YOUR HEART" EXERCISES

1

READ PSALM 23 SLOWLY

Let each line sink in. Picture the Lord as your Shepherd, guiding and comforting you. Reflect on a phrase that stands out and thank God for His care.

2

BREATHE AND PRAY ACTS

Take a few deep breaths. Quietly pray through Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Don't rush—pause to listen after each part. (*see next page*)

3

REFLECT ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Think back to one time God provided for you. Thank Him for His goodness. Ask Him to help you trust Him again today.

The ACTS Prayer Model

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO PRAYER

The **ACTS Prayer Model**: *Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication* is a helpful guide for prayer. Prayer is another way you can **Prepare Your Heart**.

A

ADORATION – Praise God for who He is.

- What attributes of God stand out to you today? (i.e. His love, faithfulness, grace)
- Write a few sentences or phrases praising God for His character:
  - "God, You are _____."
  - "I am in awe of Your _____."

C

CONFESSION – Confess any ways you may have gone against God's will through your actions, attitude, or thoughts and ask for forgiveness.

- Is there anything weighing on your heart that you need to bring before God?
- Write a prayer of confession:
  - "Lord, I confess _____."
  - "Please forgive me for _____."

T

THANKSGIVING – Thank God for His blessings and provision.

- What are you grateful for today? (e.g., answered prayers, relationships, provision)
- Write a prayer of thanksgiving:
  - "Thank You, Lord, for _____."
  - "I am grateful for _____ because _____."

S

SUPPLICATION – Bring your requests to God. While it's natural to pray for others, take this time to focus on your personal needs and desires. God cares deeply about what's on your heart—your struggles, your desires, and your growth. Be specific and honest.

- What do you need God's help with today?
- Where do you need clarity, healing, or courage?

Write your personal requests below:

- "Lord, I ask for _____."
- "Please help me with _____."

Remember, God invites you to come to Him with your own burdens and joys. Don't hesitate to share what's truly on your heart!

The Attributes of God

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S UNCHANGING NATURE

This page highlights key **attributes of God**, helping you understand who He is and what He is like. Reflecting on these truths can deepen your awe and grow your relationship with Him.

ALL-KNOWING
God knows everything about everything.

Psalm 139:1-5, Matthew 10:29-30, Hebrews 4:13

ALMIGHTY
Nothing is too hard for God.

Exodus 7-10, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 28:1-10

ATTENTIVE
God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

Exodus 2:23-3:21, Psalm 40:1-2, Acts 12:1-19

COMPASSIONATE
God sees, cares, and acts when His children are in need.

Esther 2-8, John 11:1-44, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

CREATOR
God made everything.

Genesis 1, Genesis 5:1-2, Psalm 19:1, Isaiah 40:26, Isaiah 44:24, Colossians 1:16-17

DELIVERER
God rescues His children.

Daniel 3, Colossians 1:13-14, Acts 16:16-40

ETERNAL
God has no beginning and no end. He is forever.

Habakkuk 1:12, Psalm 90:1-2, Isaiah 26:4, Isaiah 41:4, Revelation 1:8

FAITHFUL
God always does what He says He will do.

Deuteronomy 7:9, Joshua 6, Psalm 33:4, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 10:23, 1 John 1:9

GENEROUS
God gives what is best.

Genesis 15:1-7, Psalm 84:10-11, Luke 5:17-26

GLORIOUS
God shows His greatness and worth. He deserves all praise and honor.

Psalm 104:1. Psalm 145:5-13, Matthew 17:1-13, Luke 2:8-20, Revelation 19:1-2

GRACIOUS
God gives us what we don't deserve.

Psalm 116:5, Ephesians 2:8-9

GOOD
God is what is best.

Genesis 1:31a, Psalm 16:2, Psalm 34:8, Psalm 106:1, Psalm 107:1, Psalm 119:68

HOLY
God is completely perfect and separate from sin.

Leviticus 19:2, Leviticus 20:26, 1 Samuel 2:2, Isaiah 6:3, Isaiah 57:15, John 17:11, 1 Peter 1:16, Revelation 4:8

INCOMPREHENSIBLE
God is bigger than we are able to understand. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

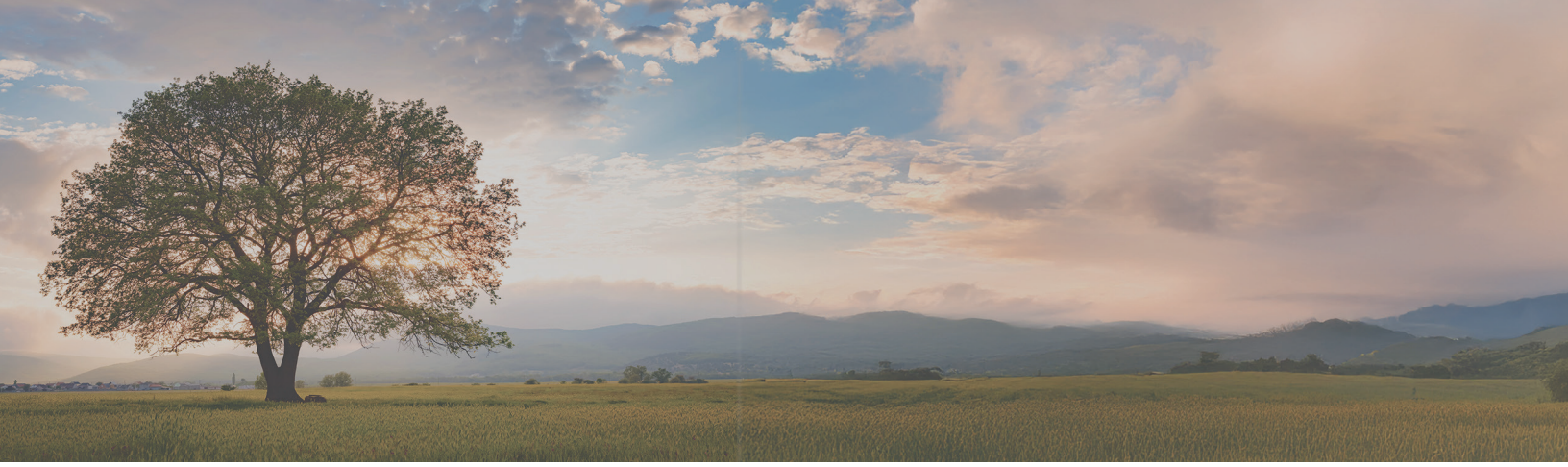
Psalm 145:5-13, Matthew 3:1-17, Luke 2:8-20

INFINITE
God has no limits in His person or on His power.

Psalm 115:3, Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 55:9, Job 36:22-24, Matthew 19:26

JEALOUS
God will not share His glory with another. Only He deserves it.

Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 4:23-24, Joshua 24:19



JUST
God is fair in all His actions and judgments. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

Numbers 14:18a, Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 11:7, Psalm 33:5, Psalm 146:7-9, Isaiah 61:8, Matthew 21:12-17, John 3:36

LOVING
God does what is best.

Psalm 136:26, Matthew 27:1-66, Luke 2:1-7, John 3:16, Romans 8:38-39, 1 John 4:16

MERCIFUL
God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Psalm 25:10, Isaiah 30:18, Luke 15:11-32, Ephesians 2:4-5, Titus 3:5

OMNIPRESENT & EVERYWHERE
God is everywhere all the time.

Psalm 139:7-10, Proverbs 15:3, Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 43:2, Hebrews 13:5b

PATIENT
God is patient. God is slow to anger.

Nehemiah 9:6-31, Galatians 5:22-23a, 2 Peter 3:9

PROVIDER
God meets the needs of His children.

Genesis 22:1-14, Matthew 14:13-21, Philippians 4:19

REFUGE
God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

1 Samuel 23:15-24:22, Psalm 46:1-2, Psalm 59:16

RIGHTEOUS
God is always right and good.

Exodus 9:27, Psalm 119:137, Jeremiah 12:1, Romans 3:21-26

SELF-SUFFICIENT
God depends on nothing to exist.

Exodus 3:14, John 5:26, Acts 17:24-25

SOVEREIGN
God has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases.

2 Samuel 7:22a, Isaiah 46:9b-10, Job 42:2, Luke 4:31-37, Romans 8:28

TRUE
God is true, and everything He says is true! God will never lie to us.

Numbers 23:19, Psalm 86:11, John 3:33, John 14:6

UNCHANGING
God never changes.

1 Samuel 15:29, Psalm 102:25-27, Malachi 3:6a, Romans 11:29, Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17

WISE
God knows what is best.

Genesis 37:1-28, Genesis 45:1-15, Proverbs 3:5-7, Romans 11:33, 1 Corinthians 1:25

WORTHY
Only God deserves all glory.

1 Samuel 5, Isaiah 46:9-10, Isaiah 55:9, Revelation 4:11

*Definitions were taken from or informed by The Village Church, Our Daily Grace Company, and Desiring God.

What is the Bible?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The Bible is God's Word and as such, it contains his words for us (*1 Thess 2:13*). The Bible is written by God through human authors. It's one big unified story, made up of many smaller stories. The entire book is really about Jesus, and it will transform people and communities. The Bible tells us how the Creator made all things (*Genesis 1:1*), sustains all things, (*Hebrews 1:3*), and is carrying His creation to its ultimate destiny—full re-creation (*Revelation 21:3-5*).

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 a doctor. 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 human authors wrote exactly what God wanted them to write, resulting in the perfect and holy Word of God (*Psalm 12:6, 2 Peter 1:21*). The Bible's unity is due to the fact that ultimately, it has one Author— God himself. The Bible is "God-breathed" (*2 Timothy 3:16*).

> I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claim their writings are Divine, rather than of human origin.
>
> —VODDIE BAUCHAM

Truths to Remember

THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT TO LEAD US TO CHRIST.

(2 Timothy 3:15,17)

Sufficient: enough, adequate, ample, plentiful. The Bible provides all that we need to understand: 1) Who God is. 2) Who we are in relation to Him. 3) How He made us to live in this world He created.

THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"The authority of any particular instruction flows from the authority of the person giving it. Whether it comes from a parent, coach, friend, boss, or stranger largely impacts how much weight it carries.

Scripture is the authority over every person and every aspect of life because it is breathed out by God. Every word is valuable and without mistake." - Mary Wiley, *Everyday Theology*

THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT ERROR.

(John 17:17)

Since God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2) and all Scripture is "God-Breathed", He would cease to be God if He breathed out errors.

"We can't discern what's false if we don't train our eyes on what is true. The best weapon we have for discerning true teaching from false teaching, and sin from righteousness is "the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:17, Philippians 4:8) - Jen Wilkin, *In His Image*

THE BIBLE IS THE CHRISTIAN'S JOY AND DELIGHT.

(Psalm 1, Psalm 119:24)

"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, *Why it is Good and Right to Delight in the Word of God*

> 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." (John 6:44-47)
>
> **—MATT SMETHURST**
> *Before You OpenYour Bible*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been your experience with the Bible?
2. If the Bible is really God's words to us and one big story, how do you think we should read it?
3. Why do you think God would want to talk to us through the Bible? What does that tell us about God?
4. How does it feel to know that the God who made everything is also taking care of everything and has a plan for His creation?
5. What do you think it means that God worked through people from so many different backgrounds to create the Bible?
6. How does believing that the Bible says exactly what God wants to say impact the way you feel about its teachings?

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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Scan Me
To dive deeper!

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- Ruth
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- 2 Kings
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- 2 Chronicles
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- 3 John
- Jude

- Revelation *(Prophecy)*

The Story of Scripture

CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, RE-CREATION

One of the best ways to understand the overarching story of the Bible is by breaking it down into four simple words: **Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Re-Creation**. These words represent the entire story of Scripture and can serve as a helpful framework for connecting the dots between the many individual stories and teachings found in the Bible.

Scan Me
To dive deeper!

CREATION

In the beginning, God creates everything good and out of nothing. Humans are made in God's image, very good, and designed for relationship with Him and to be stewards of His creation. God's kingdom is a place of peace and human flourishing and ruled by a good King.

Discuss: How does knowing God as Creator impact your view of God?

FALL

In Genesis 3, everything changes. A new character enters the story - described as crafty, deceptive, and a liar. Satan confuses the first humans and makes them disbelieve the goodness of God and they believe the lie, bringing sin and brokenness into the world. This is known as the Fall. It's the moment when the perfect world God created is marred by human rebellion. The consequences of sin—separation from God, shame, pain, suffering, and death—enter into the world.

Discuss: Sin can be defined as rejecting or going against God's will through our actions, attitudes, or thoughts. It is any choice or behavior that separates us from God and His perfect design for our lives. What are some of the consequences and effects of sin today?

REDEMPTION

Throughout the Old Testament, God gives glimpses of his plan to restore and redeem humanity back to their creator God. The story of redemption is ultimately fulfilled in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Jesus conquered sin and death to bring freedom to those who would trust Him as their Lord and Savior.

Discuss: What areas of your life feel broken or in need of restoration?

RE-CREATION

The story doesn't end with redemption. The Bible points forward to a time when God will make all things new. In the final chapters of Revelation, we see the ultimate Re-Creation: a new heaven and a new earth where God dwells with His people, and there is no more sin, suffering, or death. God brings his people back to live under His good rule and reign.

Discuss: What encourages you about knowing the end of the story?

Who is Jesus?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The Bible's main character and hero is Jesus Christ. Although we don't see His name in every book, all 66 books point to Him. He is referred to as the second person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He is also the Good Shepherd who brings abundant life (*John 10:10-11*).

The more we understand who Jesus is, the more we'll grow in our love for Him. This is an ongoing pursuit since He is infinite, and we are finite. "Christ" means "Messiah" or "anointed one." As the Christ, Jesus is the one who fulfills all Old Testament expectations.

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*). He is the head of the Church, often called His body. He leads and unifies this body, which is made of diverse parts with unique purposes (*Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27*).

Truths to Remember

HE IS GOD IN HUMAN FORM. HE IS THE WORD OF GOD. FULLY GOD. FULLY MAN.

(Hebrews 1:3)

Jesus is God who came to live among us as a man. He is fully God and fully human, showing us exactly what God is like. The Bible calls Him "Immanuel," which means "God with us," and "the Word of God" because He spoke and lived out what God wanted us to know. Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." (*John 14:9*) If you want to know what God is like, look at the life of Jesus.

NOTHING WAS CREATED WITHOUT HIM.

(Colossians 1:16)

Because Jesus is God, that means that He was present at creation. Ever since the beginning, everything we see, everything we don't see, everything past, present, and future – all things were all created by Jesus.

JESUS LIVED A LIFE WITHOUT SIN. THERE IS NO SALVATION APART FROM HIM.

(John 14:6)

Jesus lived a perfect life, never doing anything wrong or making a mistake. Because of this, He is the only one who can save us from our sins and bring us into a right relationship with God. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the only way to God—no one else can offer the forgiveness and eternal life that He gives.

HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS DEFEATED SINS' POWER AND CONSEQUENCE.

(Colossians 2:13-15)

A cross is of real significance to a Christian because it was on the cross that God demonstrated His great love for mankind. Christians believe Jesus died on the cross to defeat sin and its consequences - separation from God and death. By taking the punishment for sin, Jesus made a way for people to be forgiven and reconnected with God. His resurrection shows that sin and death don't win, giving hope, freedom, and eternal life to those who trust in Him. What a beautiful demonstration of God's love.

HIS RESURRECTION DEFEATED DEATH AND BROUGHT NEW LIFE.

(1 Corinthians 15:17, Isaiah 25:8-9)

When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated the power of death and made it possible for us to have a new, eternal life with God. His resurrection shows that death is not the end and that we can have hope and joy through Him.

JESUS WILL RETURN FOR HIS PEOPLE, HIS BRIDE.

(John 14:1-4)

Christians believe Jesus will return for those who trust in Him for salvation. After His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus told His followers He was returning to the Father to prepare a place for them in heaven. This reflects the cultural practice of a groom preparing a space in His father's house for His bride. When the space was ready, the father would send the groom to bring His bride home. Jesus promised, "I will come again and will take you to Myself." Christians eagerly await Jesus' return, knowing He is preparing a place for them in heaven.

JESUS REIGNS AS KING OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH.

(Ephesians 1:20-21)

The Kingdom of God is a place of peace and flourishing. Christians believe Jesus is the sovereign King, reigning with perfect wisdom and goodness. With ultimate authority, His word stands as the royal decree, guiding His Kingdom with justice and grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you heard people talk about who Jesus is?
2. Why do you think it matters that Jesus is both God and human?
3. If Jesus created everything, what does that tell you about His power and importance?
4. Why do you think it's important that Jesus lived a perfect life without sin?
5. What are some other ways people believe they can find salvation?
6. What do you think it means to have a new life through Jesus?
7. How does knowing that Jesus will come back change the way we live now?
8. When you think about trusting that God is in control, what's the hardest part for you?

What Happened

ON THE CROSS?

The Short Answer Is This:

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS

1 Corinthians 15:3

CHRIST'S DEATH FOR OUR SINS MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN **THESE TWO BROAD WAYS:**

FIRST

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the Father charged to him all of our sin, and judged the full penalty of our sin in Jesus as he died.

2 Corinthians 5:21, Colossians 2:14

SECOND

Jesus conquered the power of Satan, darkness, and death as he died for our sin. In this, he established his supreme authority and power over everything in creation.

Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, Ephesians 1:20-23

SUMMARY

In his death on the cross, Jesus fully paid the penalty for our sin, and he totally defeated the power of sin and death.

CREDIT BRUCE A. WARE

What is the Gospel?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

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*).

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.

Truths to Remember

THE GOSPEL WAS GOD'S PLAN ALL ALONG.

(Genesis 3:14-19, Isaiah 53:10)

"The cross of Jesus Christ was not some surprise, not some plan B for God, but rather the plan known about within the Godhead since the beginning." (*Acts 2:22-23*) - Matt Chandler, *The Explicit Gospel*

THE GOSPEL BRINGS LIFE!

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

"To receive salvation and eternal life, we put our faith in Jesus as our sacrifice and our Savior. When we do, in him we are forgiven. All of our past sin, everything we have done that was against God's commands, everything we should have done but did not do, every wicked thought, every careless word—forgiven. No matter what we've done, we will not suffer eternal death separated from God because Jesus died in our place and we put our faith in Him." - Allan Moseley, *Exalting Jesus in Leviticus*

TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL, CHRISTIANS REPENT AND BELIEVE.

(Romans 10:9, Mark 1:15)

"When you believe in Christ, you're adopted not on the basis of your record, but on his record. You're adopted into the family and treated as if you'd accomplished everything Christ accomplished... You have to receive it through repentance, and that's not easy at all. The only way to get to that peace is through paying the pain of repentance... All you need is nothing." - Tim Keller, *The Gospel in a Nutshell*

THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE.

(1 John 4:10,18-19, Romans 8:31-39)

"In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You [God] love me more, and nothing I have done that makes You love me less. Your presence and approval are all I need for everlasting joy." - *J.D. Greear, Gospel*

THE GOSPEL IS MEANT TO TRANSFORM US.

(2 Cor. 3:18, Gal. 5:22-23, Psalm 51:10-12)

"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, *Enough About Me*

To the Galatians, "Paul called them back to an awareness that the good news about Jesus—the gospel—is for all of life: everything!" (Galatians 2:20)

—JEFF VANDERSTELT
Gospel Fluency

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was important about Jesus' life?
2. What is significant about Jesus' death?
3. Why is the resurrection important?
4. Why is the ascension important not to miss?
5. Did you grow up hearing that the gospel is only needed to save you, like a ticket to heaven?
6. How does the gospel apply to a Christian's everyday life?
7. What does it look like to receive the gospel? What does it mean to repent? What does it mean to believe?
8. Can we earn God's love?

What's Next?

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Congratulations on completing this workbook! You've taken an important step in exploring the foundations of the Christian faith. We hope that through this journey, you've gained a clearer understanding of what the Bible is, who Jesus is, and what the gospel means for your life.

If you have received the gospel and trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, we rejoice with you! This is the beginning of a new life, one that is saved, sanctified, and sustained by the power of the gospel. But the journey doesn't end here. The next step is to dive deeper into how the gospel transforms your identity, empowers you by the Holy Spirit, and leads you to live out your faith in community with others.

We invite you to continue your journey by exploring the next workbook in this series, where we'll take a deeper look at how the gospel saves, changes, and sustains you as a believer. You'll learn how to embrace your new identity in Christ, grow in your relationships within the church, discover the power of the Holy Spirit in your life and live a life on mission with Jesus.

NEXT STEPS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE GOSPEL

If you have not yet received the gospel and trusted in Jesus, we encourage you to take the next step in your faith journey. The gospel is not just information to be understood but a truth to be lived. It is good news calling you to a new life and freedom in Christ.

1

PRAY

Talk to God, acknowledging your need for salvation through Jesus Christ. Ask Him to forgive your sins and receive His gift of grace.

2

FIND A CHURCH

Connect with a local Christian community where you can grow in your faith and be supported in your journey. Talk to a pastor or ministry leader and ask if there might be someone willing to come alongside you on your faith journey to navigate your next steps.

3

READ THE BIBLE

Continue to explore God's Word to deepen your understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

We are excited for the journey ahead, whether you are beginning to receive the gospel or continuing to grow in it. The gospel is not just a 'ticket to heaven'; it is the foundation that will save, sanctify, and sustain you throughout your life.

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