



SEVEN
THINGS
I WISH
CHRISTIANS
KNEW
ABOUT THE
BIBLE

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SEVEN THINGS I WISH CHRISTIANS KNEW ABOUT THE BIBLE: STUDY & DISCUSSION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

1. What words would you use to describe the Bible, and why?
2. What are some ways the Bible has shaped history and culture around the world?
3. Why do you think the Bible is controversial?

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4. Why is it important to know about the origin and history of the Bible?

5. What are some challenges you have faced while reading the Bible?

CHAPTER 1: THE BIBLE DIDN'T FALL OUT OF THE SKY

1. What is your knowledge of the origin of the Bible and how it was assembled?
2. Why do you think it was necessary to create qualifications that texts must meet in order to be included in the canon?
3. Why do you think it is important to have a canon of Scripture?
4. In what ways might it be beneficial to read the Apocrypha?

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5. What challenges do you think might be presented in translating ancient texts into Bible translations?

6. Do you believe the canon should be updated when new ancient texts are found? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 2: THE BIBLE IS DIVINELY GIVEN AND HUMANLY COMPOSED

1. Why is it important to understand biblical inspiration and inerrancy?
2. What does it mean that the Bible was inspired by God?
3. What are some of the ways God communicated with people in the Bible?
4. What are some of the messages God communicated to people in the Bible?

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5. What are some of the battles of biblical inerrancy happening today?

6. How would you defend the Bible as a true book if questioned by someone who hasn't read it before?

CHAPTER 3: SCRIPTURE IS NORMATIVE, NOT NEGOTIABLE

1. What is biblical authority?

2. Do you believe the Bible is authoritative? Why or why not?

3. In what ways are biblical subscription and biblical submission different?

4. What commandments or laws in the Bible seem strange or unorthodox to you?

5. Why is it important to include the Old Testament when discussing biblical authority?

6. How does your perspective of the Old Testament change when you consider reading it with Jesus's teachings as the center?

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5. Why do you think ancient texts are often overlooked as reading material?

6. What era of biblical history interests you most? What resource from the “How to Begin Learning about Bible Background: A Sampler” list might help you learn more about that time?

CHAPTER 5: WE SHOULD TAKE THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY, BUT NOT ALWAYS LITERALLY

1. What does it mean to take the Bible literally?
2. Do you agree with the author's statement that it is impossible to always take the Bible literally? Why or why not?
3. What is the difference between taking the Bible literally and taking it seriously?
4. The author recommends being mindful of the four words that start with *c*—or *C4*—when reading the Bible: *context*, *content*, *concern*, and *contemporary application*. Which of these have you previously applied to your understanding of the Bible? Which will be new for you?

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5. What examples of intertextuality (how a biblical book refers to other biblical books) are you familiar with? In what ways does knowing how those passages relate help you better understand the text?

6. What strategies do you use to help you apply Scripture to your daily life?

CHAPTER 6: THE PURPOSE OF SCRIPTURE IS KNOWLEDGE, FAITH, LOVE, AND HOPE

1. How would you describe the purpose of the Bible to someone who is just beginning to learn about God?

2. Why is it important to learn about God through the Bible?

3. What have you learned about God through Scripture?

4. In what ways does the Bible “bring us to a deepening faith”?

5. What are some of your favorite verses about love?

6. In what ways is love a form of worship?

7. In what ways does the Bible give you hope?

CHAPTER 7: CHRIST IS THE CENTRE OF THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE

1. At what point in your journey of faith did you learn that the entire Bible is centered on Christ?

2. In what ways does the Old Testament reflect Jesus and salvation through him?

3. How does your understanding of the Old Testament change when you read it with a “Jesus lens”?

4. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the promises of the Old Testament?

5. Why is it important to consider the content and concern of a specific biblical passage rather than focusing only on how it points to Jesus?

6. In what ways does the Bible shape the morals of Christians?

7. What does it mean to interpret the Bible in an apostolic manner? What does that look like in practice?