HOW (NOT) TO READ THE BIBLE

Making Sense of the ANTI-WOMEN, ANTI-SCIENCE, PRO-VIOLENCE, PRO-SLAVERY, and Other Crazy-Sounding Parts of Scripture

STUDY GUIDE | SIX SESSIONS

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How (Not) to Read the Bible Study Guide
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Welcome to *How (Not) to Read the Bible*. This guide, including six teaching sessions, is meant to be a companion learning experience to my book, *How (Not) to Read the Bible*. And here’s why this study is so important. The Bible has become a stumbling block for many Christians and non-Christians alike. The strange and disturbing verses we read prevent many of us from taking the Bible seriously, not to mention the memes we see about these verses. I can totally relate to anyone who thinks the Bible is strange. I did too. In fact, that’s why I’m here.

Maybe you’re here because you are a Christian and you find yourself uncomfortable with your growing awareness of Bible verses and stories you never paid much attention to before. Or maybe you’re here because you have a friend or family member doubting and even deconstructing their faith, and you’re hoping for insight or a way to respond. And maybe you’re here because you’re starting to explore Jesus’ teachings, what the Bible says, and what it means to be a Christian.

Whatever your reason for being here, this study experience is meant to be your guide for understanding the validity of the Bible. We live in a day and age when there are many sacred religious books out there, when people are asking how we know
if the Bible is *the one* sacred text for our lives, a revelation from God. And who’s to say the Bible and its teachings make sense for us today? We can no longer just sweep these questions under the rug and ignore them without taking a look at the origins of the Bible. This is the only way to understand the bizarre and unusual things in it.

Although you may not know me personally, I can say this very confidently to you: *I would not be teaching this study experience if there were no explanations for these verses in the Bible.* And I would never mislead anyone into believing in a faith that is not trustworthy. The good news is we can intelligently, with faith, believe that the Scriptures are from God. While there are many verses that seem difficult to comprehend, we can find legitimate responses for these bizarre Bible verses and difficult questions when we apply certain study methods and examine these verses in their contexts. Understanding how *not* to read the Bible changes how we view and read it every day.

So, here’s where we’re heading over the next six sessions. First, we’ll learn what to do when we come across crazy-sounding Bible passages. Second, we’ll look at several of the passages most commonly objected to. And we’ll look at five areas of challenge to the Bible and ways to address those challenges. While there are plenty more strange and confusing Bible passages we could cover, these five give us a helpful place to start. Together, we will look at how to find intelligent responses for these challenging passages so that you have the basic methods to keep exploring in the future.

Let’s get started!

*Dan Kimball, www.dankimball.com*
How to Use This Guide

How (Not) to Read the Bible is designed to be as personal as it is practical. Each session begins with a brief opening reflection to get you and your group thinking about the topic. You will then watch a video with Dan Kimball, which can be accessed via the streaming code found on the inside front cover. If you are doing the study with a group, you will then engage in some directed discussion. You will close each session with a time of personal reflection and prayer.

If you are doing this study with a group, each person should have his or her own study guide, which includes video teaching notes, group discussion questions, and between-sessions exercises to help you reflect on how you can explore more of the material during the week. You are also encouraged to have a copy of the How (Not) to Read the Bible book, as reading it alongside the curriculum will provide you with deeper insights and make the journey more meaningful.

To get the most out of your group experience, keep the following points in mind. First, the real growth in this study will happen during your small-group time. This is where you will process the content of Dan’s message, ask questions, and learn from others as you hear what God is doing in their lives.
For this reason, it is important for you to be fully committed to the group and attend each session so you can build trust and rapport with the other members. If you choose to only “go through the motions,” or if you refrain from participating, there is a lesser chance you will find what you’re looking for during this study.

Second, remember the goal of your small group is to serve as a place where people can share, learn about God, and build intimacy and friendship. For this reason, seek to make your group a “safe place.” This means being honest about your thoughts and feelings and listening carefully to everyone else’s opinion. Third, resist the temptation to “fix” someone’s problem or correct his or her theology, as that’s not the purpose of your small-group time. Also, keep everything your group shares confidential. This will foster a rewarding sense of community in your group and create a place where people can heal, be challenged, and grow spiritually.

In between your group times, you can maximize the impact of the course by checking out the personal exploration exercises. This individual time will help you personally reflect and actively respond to the lesson. For each session, you may wish to complete the personal exercises in one sitting or spread it over a few days (for example, working on it a few minutes per day on four different days that week). Note that if you are unable to finish (or even start!) your between-session exercises, you should still attend the group study video session. You are still wanted and welcome at the group even if you don’t have your “homework” done.

Keep in mind this study is an opportunity for you to train in a new way of seeing the difficult and confusing parts of the Bible. The videos, discussions, and exercises are simply meant to kick-start your imagination, so you are open to what God wants you to learn about complex passages and how to apply the messages to your life.
SESSION ONE

Never Read a Bible Verse
(Or You Will Have to Believe in Magical Unicorns)

God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.
NUMBERS 23:22 KJV

And the unicorns shall come down with them . . .
ISAIAH 34:7 KJV

Welcome

When I first tried to read the Bible as a teenager, it seemed more like a work of fiction than anything else—a book filled with epic battles and angels, stories of demons, and even a red dragon.’ That’s why it was placed on a bookshelf between my fantasy and horror books. It fit right in with Bram Stoker’s Dracula and J. R. R. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings trilogy. As I read and studied

* 1 Samuel 11:1–11; 2 Samuel 10:10–19; Isaiah 37:36; Revelation 16:12–16; 12:3
more of the Bible in college, I was still disturbed by some of the oddities I found, namely, talking animals. These oddities didn’t bode well for someone like me who was trying to make a serious attempt at considering the claims of the Christian faith. The Bible didn’t make sense and I was surprised there was so much violence, even in the life of Jesus. I knew that if the Bible was the foundation of Christianity, I had to make sense of these passages.

But making sense of the disturbing passages of the Bible gets complicated in a world full of memes. In addition to seeming anti-women and pro-slavery, it’s not hard to find Bible verses that seem to endorse violence, even against babies and small children. And it’s not hard to find websites and YouTube videos dedicated to calling out these sorts of Bible verses. What was once known as “The Good Book” is now considered “The Evil Book” by so many. To make matters worse, it’s becoming more commonplace to see people quote Bible verses all over the internet and on memed-merchandise to illustrate how strange, crazy, and primitive sounding the Bible is.

If I were reading these bizarre verses for the first time, seeing them in isolation like this, I would feel the same way.
But here’s the good news: there are ways to better understand these crazy-sounding Bible verses. We must learn how to, and how not to, read the Bible. If you are willing to look beyond the visual image and explore beyond a literal, out-of-context reading of a verse, you’ll discover the Bible is not “sheer nonsense.” The Bible is an amazing, fully inspired, life-changing collection of writings by people who were directed by God through God’s Spirit. When we read, interpret, and understand the Bible accurately—not just individual verses, but how they fit into the Bible as a whole—our questions and concerns are answered, and we come to better know the author of the Bible. We come to know God.

**Watch**

*Play the video segment for session one (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.*

**Video Notes**

Questions people are asking about the Bible:

- Is God pro-violence?
- Is the Bible anti-women?
- Is the Bible anti-science?
- Does God endorse slavery?
The Good News: there are reasonable responses to these questions.

Four basic ways to look at the Bible to make sense of these disturbing Bible passages:

1. The Bible is a library, not a book.

   It is a library of books. *It was written by over forty different authors, over 1,500 years, on three continents, in three languages, many different cultural settings, and many different genres.*

   The Holy Spirit is the Author who *guided* the human authors (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
Examining the genres. The poetry of Song of Solomon 4:15.

2. The Bible is written for us, not to us.

Understanding the author’s intent and for whom the passage was written. The dangers of misinterpreting Scripture.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK:

Who was the book or letter of the Bible originally written to?

Why was it written?

What was happening in the world of the original recipients?

What questions were they asking that God was answering to them?
3. Never read a Bible verse in isolation.

Understanding the storyline, the timeline, and the context. *Bible scrolling.*

Genesis 1:29 and Genesis 9:3.

4. All the Bible points to Jesus.

The storyline is about Jesus from Genesis to Revelation.
“This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”
LUKE 24:44 NIV

What about the unicorns?

Group Discussion

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. What stood out to you from listening to Dan today? How can you identify with the stories or memes he shared?

2. What questions or concerns do you have about the Bible? Which verses or stories have tripped you up because you don't quite understand the original context?
3. Have you ever considered the Bible as a library of books, rather than a book in the library? How does this shift in mindset change things for you regarding the Bible?

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17. How does Paul encourage Timothy to use the Bible? Why is it worth studying all of the Bible, even with the challenging passages?

5. Placing the challenging verses of Scripture within their proper context is vital to understanding the meaning of these verses. What practices or tools do you use, or could you start using, to make sure you understand the context of a verse or story?

6. Read Isaiah 7:1–17 and Luke 24. What does it mean when Dan says all the Bible points to Jesus? How do we know this to be true?
Reflection

Briefly reflect on the teaching and any notes you took. In the space below, write down your most significant takeaway from this session. Also, consider what discussion question or Bible passage you plan to explore as a result of today’s session. If time permits, share it with your group.

Wrap-Up

Pray as a group before you close your time together. Be honest with God about the questions and concerns you have about the sacred text of the Bible. Thank God for creating a library of content written for us even when it’s not written to us. Ask God to give you the courage and discipline to explore the context of passages and places in the Bible that seem strange to you. And ask God to give you the vision to see the story of Jesus throughout the entire lens of the Bible.
SESSION ONE

How You Can Respond

Choose at least one of the following suggested activities/reflections to complete over the next week. Consider sharing with your friends or small group members the impact the activity or reflection had on you as you spent this time exploring. Before you begin, you may want to review book chapters 1–3 in How (Not) to Read the Bible.

The primary purpose of reading the Bible is not to know the Bible but to know God.
—JAMES MERRITT

1. Read 2 Peter 1:12–21. When we ignore how a particular verse fits into the context of the entire Bible, we all-too-easily believe that mythical, magical unicorns are in the Bible, too. This makes us susceptible to believing misinformation around things such as talking animals, the way women are viewed in the church, and many other crazy, strange, and weird-sounding things.
The apostle Paul made it clear to his followers that the words of the prophets in the Bible came from God and were carried through the Holy Spirit. While the words of the prophets are true, our interpretations can still go wrong.

Are there any mistruths that this session has made you aware of or things you’ve believed that you are rethinking? What things have you believed about strange-sounding parts of the Bible that might not actually be true?

2. Visualize the Bible as a library. Imagine walking into a modern-day library and going to the poetry section (and bonus points if you go to an actual library for this visualization!). Because of the nature of poetry, you would read it differently than a book in the history section. First, visualize the various sections of the library and imagine how you would approach each section with a different mindset, purpose, and lens. Do you search in different ways in each section? Do you carry a different kind of purpose or emotion? Do you see things from a different perspective as you visit various corners of the library?
Now visualize the Bible itself as a modern-day library. What section are you drawn to first, and why? What are you searching for? What are you hoping to find? What do you want to learn? How will you know when you’ve found the story of Jesus in each section?

POETRY
Words with rhythm or rhyme used to communicate in a way that stirs the imagination and emotions. Colorful words, often exaggerated, to describe ideas or tell stories. Songs are often written as poetry.

HISTORY
Words and writings documenting events from the past as well as the memory, discovery, collection, organization, presentation, and interpretation of these events as written in books.

REGIONAL
Writings from a particular region of the world during a particular period of time. The region and the time period shape the way writers understood the world and the struggles they faced. The terms, language, and contexts differ between regions and time periods.

LAW
Writings detailing laws and cases from different periods of history. Laws may differ and change over time as well as between different geographic regions.
If you’re new to exploring the Bible, pick a section that interests you, and start by reading the first book in that section. But don’t stop there. Remember, the Bible is meant to be understood within the context of the Bible as a whole, not verse by verse.

**THE HOLY BIBLE:**

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Sixty-six books
- Nine genres
- Timespan of 1,500 years.
3. The Bible was written for all people at all times and it's a sacred source of learning and wisdom. Another way to make sense of this idea is to understand that the Bible was written for us, but not to us. While the Bible may not have been written with our contemporary culture and its assumptions and values in mind, that doesn't prevent us from learning and gaining wisdom from the Bible. And the best way to learn the most from the Bible is to read the words and try to hear them as the original audience would have heard them and as the author would have meant them to be understood.

With this in mind, consider which passages or stories stand out to you? Is there a scenario or situation from the Bible you can easily identify with even though you don't live in ancient Israel? Do you see yourself in a Bible character as he or she shares his or her story or cries out to God in prayer? Is there a story that seems like a flashback of your modern-day life? What wisdom have you learned by reading the stories and understanding the characters of the Bible?
POPULAR STORIES FROM THE BIBLE:

Abraham and Sarai (Genesis 16–17)
Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25, 31)
Joseph (Genesis 37)
Moses and Aaron (Exodus 4)
Joshua (Joshua 1)
Deborah (Judges 4–5)
Ruth (book of Ruth)
David (2 Samuel 11, Psalms)
Solomon (2 Kings 1; Song of Songs)
Esther (book of Esther)
Job (book of Job)
Habakkuk (book of Habakkuk)
Mary (Matthew 1; Luke 1)
John the Baptist (Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 7; John 1)
Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
The Disciples (Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 5, John 1)
The Samaritan Woman (John 4)
Mary and Martha (Luke 10)
Mary Magdalene (Matthew 27; Mark 16; John 20)
The Bleeding Woman (Matthew 9; Mark 5; Luke 8)
Bartimaeus (Mark 10)
Zacchaeus (Luke 10)
Paul (Acts 13)
4. Read Genesis 3:15; 22:18; and Isaiah 53. Most great storylines have a backstory—a history or background that builds up to the present moment. Jesus had a backstory, too; one that began long before his birth in Bethlehem. When we see each verse in the Bible as part of a bigger story, we realize just how much we need the Old Testament to understand the New Testament. And what we discover is that all of the Bible points to Jesus. There are hints of Jesus in the book of Genesis as far back as the garden of Eden, and later in a promise God made to Abraham. These hints become clearer in the writings of the prophet Isaiah, leading right up to Jesus' birth in the New Testament. This backstory gives additional meaning to all that he says and does throughout the Gospel stories of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. That's why it's crucial to understand the full story of the Old Testament because it points us to the significance of Jesus and the New Testament he established. Between the backstory of the Old Testament and the presence of Jesus, there are six acts to the full story of the Bible.
We can’t box God into time as we know it, but the events within the Bible as listed here in this historical timeline are as real as our daily experience of life today.

Consider your own story in light of the story of the Bible and Jesus. How many acts are included in your story? How would you label and describe those acts and the events or people who make up those acts? What kind of timeline defines the acts of your story? Which act would you consider your best act so far in life, and your worst? Why is it important for others to understand your story as a whole rather than seeing or experiencing a few small snapshots of your life?

Now that you’re beginning to see that it makes a difference knowing where a Bible verse fits into the larger storyline, go back to some of the verses that you find disturbing or difficult to understand. Explore the greater context of those verses and notice how those verses fit into the larger story of the Bible.

5. First, fill out the basic Bible timeline below. Take your best educated guess at placing events and various things listed in the box in the right order on the timeline. You can simply circle the event and draw an arrow, or rewrite it on the timeline. Then read “The Storyline of the Bible Comes in Six Acts” on pages 44–54 of the book to see how many events you got in the right order.
Recommended Resources for Further Study

Dan Kimball, *How (Not) to Read the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020).

_PRACTICAL RESOURCES ABOUT FINDING JESUS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE BIBLE, NOT JUST THE FOUR GOSPELS:_


_If you’re interested in examining the story structure of the Bible, check out:_


Craig G. Bartholomew and Michael W. Goheen, *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story.*

N. T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God.*

_For Next Week:_ Before your group’s next session, read chapters 4–6 in *How (Not) to Read the Bible.*
Welcome

For many people today, reading Bible verses with strange, even horrifying sounding laws and commands, can be confusing and upsetting. Some verses make no sense to us or even seem contrary to what we imagine God to be like. There are verses that seem to approve of things like slavery, polygamy, killing birds to cure mold, bloody rituals, and extreme violence towards people and animals. *Weird and confusing, right?* But when we dive in and look beneath the surface, even the most strange or off-putting verses begin to make sense. This is why we talked in the last session about never reading a bible verse without reading the
verses around it to understand the context, especially in the Old Testament.

Since so many of the “strange” verses are from the early Old Testament books of the Bible, such as Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, we need to look at what was happening more specifically in those books. To apply the principles from the last session, we need to never read a Bible verse and remember that the Bible was written for us, but not to us. Starting with these principles allows us to see details in the text that make a major difference in our search to make sense of these verses. When we see the real context of these complicated passages, we see how each book of the Bible was written to a specific group of people in a specific place. It’s in that specific place with a specific group of people where these strange laws start to make sense in the greater story of the Bible as a whole.

These “stranger things” of the Old Testament would have made perfect sense to the ancient Israelites. They would have understood how God was instructing them to remain distinct from the practices of other people groups in the region—to remain holy as they entered the promised land. God gave the Israelites strange laws and practices to remind them each day how they were different from other people groups who worshiped other gods.

When we do the hard work of understanding the full context of the laws of the Old Testament and what Jesus had to say about these old laws in the New Testament, we see that many of these verses do not apply to the followers of Jesus today. So, when loud
critics and critical memes attempt to convince us that the Bible is irrelevant for us today, what they are actually communicating is a misunderstanding and extreme misuse of the Bible. That’s why we are going to closely examine the “stranger things” of the Old Testament today, particularly questions and criticisms about shrimp, slavery, and the skin of a dead pig.

Watch

Play the video segment for session two (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

Video Notes:

Cherry-picking Bible verses.

Things “banned” in the Bible.
KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK: Why does God include these bizarre-sounding restrictions?

Making Sense of These Strange Verses: The Bible is a library, not a book.

QUESTION: Which section and shelf are these strange verses from?
ANSWER: The Law Books

The Bible was written for us, not to us.

QUESTION: Why were these laws written—to whom, when, and why?
ANSWER: These laws were written to the Israelites, between 1550–1069 B.C.

“You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”
LEVITICUS 19:2 ESV

HISTORIC LAWS IN THE US

Arizona: It is illegal for a donkey to sleep in a bathtub
Kentucky: It is illegal to carry ice cream in your back pocket
Rhode Island: It is illegal to throw pickle juice on a trolley
Maryland: It is illegal to mistreat oysters
What makes sense about Leviticus: God was giving instruction to a specific group of people at a specific time.

The Backstory:

“Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices.”

Exodus 23:24 NIV

“Do not let them live in your land or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.”

Exodus 23:33 NIV

“Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.”

Exodus 34:15–16 NIV

Keeping Things Separate, On Purpose:

“Keep my decrees. Do not mate different kinds of animals. ’Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.”

Leviticus 19:19 NIV

“Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled. Do not plow with ox and a
donkey yoked together. Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together.”

Deuteronomy 22:9–11 NIV

Back to the shrimp: Dietary laws keep the Israelites separate from others.

God wants his people to remain loyal to him, the one true God.

**KEY QUESTION:** Do these rules stop at the Old Testament, or are we supposed to be practicing them today?

**ANSWER:** Some rules stop and some don’t.

Before Jesus’ time, God’s people, as recounted in the Old Testament, had to offer sacrifices to atone for sin and follow a complex set of rules for ceremonial purity and cleanliness. This included eating certain kinds of foods while abstaining from others, like shellfish, and wearing certain forms of dress garments woven with two kinds of material. That was the only way one could approach God in worship. Today, such rules are not followed by Christians because of what Jesus Christ did on the Cross. In short, the coming of Christ changed how we worship, but not how we live. The moral law outlines God’s own character: his integrity, love, and faithfulness. And so everything the Old Testament says about loving our neighbor, caring for the poor, generosity with our possessions, social relationships, and commitment to our family is still enforced.
If the New Testament has reaffirmed a commandment, then it is still in force for us today.

*Tim Keller, Pastor and Author*

**COULD HAVE BANNED SLAVERY OR SHELLFISH**

SHELLFISH, HE CHOSE SHELLFISH

**KEY QUESTION:** What about slavery?

**ANSWER:** According to the Old Testament and New Testament, slavery is *wrong*.

“Anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper’s possession.”

*Exodus 21:16 NIV*

“We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.”

*1 Timothy 1:9–10 NIV*
Understanding the use of the term *slavery*: slaves in the Old Testament were more like servants, or bondservants.

*A servant* or *bondservant* is someone who sold themselves to pay a debt or escape poverty.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Slavery in the New Testament: Thirty percent of the population were servants.

The story of Philemon and Onesimus, as told by Paul:

“No longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.”

*Philemon 1:16 NIV*

Although Christians could not abolish Roman slavery, they started a new form of society within the Roman empire, and effectively challenged the status of human beings either as masters or slaves to other human beings. Christians were the ones that lead the abolishment of slavery.

**REMEMBER THIS:** The New Testament laid the groundwork to abolish slavery and taught that all humans have equal worth.
Group Discussion:

*Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.*

1. What stood out to you from listening to Dan today? How can you identify with the questions or criticisms he shared?

2. What other questions does this teaching session bring up for you? Are there confusing parts of Scripture not mentioned by Dan that you’d like to better understand?

3. How would you respond if a friend brought up hard-to-understand Bible topics such as shrimp, slavery, and the skin of a dead pig? What other Bible criticisms do you hear?

4. Read 1 Timothy 1:1–11. What are the “controversial speculations” and “meaningless talk” Paul refers to in this passage? For whom was the law made, and what kind of encouragement does Paul give Timothy? How is this encouragement true for us today?
5. Read Philemon 1. Paul writes a plea to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. What do you notice about Paul’s posture towards Philemon, and Paul’s relationship with Onesimus? In what ways does it help to understand the context around Paul’s use of the term “slave”?

6. Dan mentions how critics believe the Bible condones slavery, and yet “no longer a slave” appears in several key Bible passages: Leviticus 26:13, Jeremiah 34:10, Romans 6:6, and Galatians 4:7. As you read these verses and skim around them for context, what insights do you notice? Why does this phrase matter?

Reflection

Briefly reflect on the teaching and any notes you took. In the space below, write down your most significant takeaway from this session. Also, consider what discussion question or Bible passage you’re going to explore as a result of today’s session. If time permits, share it with your group.
Wrap-Up

Pray as a group before you close your time together. Be honest with God about the questions and concerns you may still have about the Bible. Thank God for the backstory of the Bible—that we can read and research to understand what has been written for us even when it’s not written to us. Ask God to give you the desire to lean into the confusing laws and complex language of Scripture. And ask God to give you clarity in understanding which Old Testament laws still stand true, and which ones have been abolished for New Testament laws established by Jesus.