



TYB-123

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS
COURSE

Part 1

WHAT?

BIBLE OUTLINE:

When you first look at the Bible, it simply looks like one book, but it is in fact different books with two major sections - the New Testament and the Old Testament.

The word "bible" is from the Greek ta biblia, which means "the scrolls" or "the books." The word is derived from the ancient city of Byblos, which was the official supplier of paper products to the ancient world.

The different books have 40+ different authors, use different styles of writing and contain different things we need to know. The authors come from all walks of life, some are shepherds, kings, farmers, priests, poets, scribes, and fisherman. And they are not perfect people, they include adulterers, murderers and traitors. They are written by the wealthiest men on the planet to the poorest.

While it took over 1,500 years to write the Old Testament, the New Testament was written within a period of 50-75 years. The Bible was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek

The Bible especially the New Testament was written to an oral society that most people could not read. So, the text is supposed to be read out loud, to read in one sitting where you get involved in the book, the author, the story, the feelings and emotions that it portrays as one unit.

The Bible is like a television station with all different shows; you have comedy, romance, history, documentaries and life stories. When you watch television, the best way to watch it is to watch one show at a time, not to channel surf but to get involved in the characters and storyline of that one show. And that is the same with your Bible. The best way to read your Bible is book by book, to sit in the story, get involved in the people's lives and the type of book you are reading. It will make the books come alive and impact you much more as you read them.

Remember this book you are holding is the Word of God. God-breathed words that will inspire, transform and guide you throughout your life.

WHAT?

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

The first section of the Bible is called the **Old Testament**, and it contains thirty-nine books. This part introduces us to where it all started. It begins with the words, 'In the beginning, God ...' and it follows Christianity's history from that point. The thirty-nine books contain the five books of the Law, otherwise known as the Torah or Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. They contain the history of how everything began including creation, mankind and the fall. It introduces us to the people of God through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses, and follows their adventures and mishaps in the wilderness and to the promised land.

Next, we encounter the **historical books** of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. If you love history and learning about the foundations of Christianity and our ancestry, you are going to love these books. They are incredible; they have wars, adultery, murders, kings doing evil, some doing right and in amongst it all you get to know the God who is faithful to his agreement, full of justice and mercy.

After this, we venture into the five **wisdom books**: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. These books are like our ad breaks, you can grab a psalm and a proverb to have a quick break of worship and wisdom.

The final books are all **prophetic books**, seventeen in all and they include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Prophesying throughout the time of 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah. These incredible books will motivate you, stir your faith and give you a greater insight into our God, who loves righteousness and justice.

The Old Testament is where we get to know Abraham, Moses, David and is where we are introduced to the law, the Kingdom of God, the nation of Israel.

WHAT?

The second major section of our Bibles is the **New Testament**. The New Testament shows us what happened in the church from the time Jesus arrived to the growth of the church in the first century. The New Testament has twenty-seven different books and contains the four gospels, fourteen different letters from Paul, the letter of Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 - 3 John, Jude and finishes with the incredible book of Revelation. The New Testament is the fulfilment of what the Old Testament promised.

In the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote their **gospels** (good news) and Luke also wrote the book of Acts. Paul is responsible for the Pauline Letters which are Romans, 1st Corinthians, 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1st Thessalonians, 2nd Thessalonians, 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Peter of the Twelve Disciples wrote 1st and 2nd Peter. John, the Disciple that Jesus loved, wrote 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John and also Revelation. The book of James has been credited to James the brother of Jesus and the book of Jude was written by Jude the brother of James.

The **letters** of Paul give us a first-hand glimpse into what life was like as a first century Christian and sets us up in our doctrine, as well as the way we should think, act and live as a Christian today. Some of the books are named after the churches they are written to, like Corinthians, Ephesians and Philippians, some are named after the person that they are written to, like Timothy, Titus and Philemon and others are named after the authors that wrote them, like James, Peter and 1 - 3 John.

The New Testament finishes with the incredible book of Revelation, an epic apocalyptic book full of imagery and symbols that will finish the Biblical story a promise of hope.

WHAT?

The Bible is living and active, our instruction manual for the Christian life.

Let me show you some verses to understand the Bible better.


Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful...'

Philippians 2:16 (NLT) Hold firmly to the word of life;

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

Remember these are the word of God. If you need to know what God is saying, this is the book.

 *2 Tim 3:16: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

Matthew 24:35: Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will by no means pass away.

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BIBLE FOUNDATIONS
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Part 2

WHY?

THIS IS OUR INSTRUCTION MANUAL

The Bible is our anchor and substance to what we think and believe. I'm not one to read the instruction manual, I normally just dive into the project and then when everything goes wrong, or I can't work it out I go back to reading the instructions. Don't do that as a Christian!

The Bible is our instruction manual it tells us about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, our history - how Christianity came about, how do we think, how to act, what the Kingdom is like. Everything we need to know.

FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The Bible is about discipleship not just discipline. It about encountering Jesus and God through the book not just knowledge.

It's not a textbook but a life-manual!

John 1:1

The Word Became Flesh! In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Revelation 19:13

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Reading your Bible is encountering Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. You get to know him, so you have a relationship with him. Christianity is about relationship not religion. So, to get to know Jesus and in turn God and the Holy Spirit teaches you all the things you need as you to spend time in your Word.

WHY?

IT'S WRITTEN FOR YOU

The Bible is for everyone, not just the academics or the preachers. Reading the Bible ensures fullness in your relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and in your wisdom and understanding.

Jesus spoke in parables because he wanted the wisdom to be for everyone not just the Pharisees and those who had studied. Paul did everything he can to show that salvation is for everyone and in Christ we are all equal. We need to be very careful we don't relegate theology and studying the Bible back to an elite elect called to preach, teach or minister.

This was written for everyone, so everyone can read it and be transformed.

TO CHANGE YOUR THINKING

Unfortunately, when we get saved our mind does not get completely infused with all we need to know to live a Christian life. That is why we have the Bible and the Church. The Bible gives us examples of Christian lives. When situations happen in life, and they will, what do we think about them.

Our 'stinking thinking' needs to be swapped for the truth of the Bible. The thoughts of God hates me, I'm a failure, I'm worthless, God is judgemental, I can do this on my own, need to be swapped for you are chosen, holy, blameless, loved, fearfully and wonderfully made.

When you change your thinking, you will change the way you act. As you read the Bible you have to remember that this is the truth, not your past, what friends or family say about you. Your identity (who you are) needs to be established in the love, security and protection of Jesus Christ and what he says about you in the Bible.

WHY?

IT IS TRUTH

The Bible is truth. You need to believe the Bible over your emotions, your past, your thoughts and what everyone else thinks.

The Bible is a solid foundation, unshakeable truth that will never fail. So, as you study it, it becomes solid under your feet. We need to know the truth so we can pick the lie. When bank tellers are studying to pick fake money, they study the real one so well that when a fake comes, they can tell. That is the same with our Bibles, we need to know the truth so well that when someone tells us something different, we know the truth.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Psalms 119:160

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

IT IS THE WORD OF GOD

Simply put, this is God's words transcribed by humans. If you want to know what God thinks about sin then read this book, if you want to know what God thinks about love, grace, any topic it's all in this book.

Sometimes we can feel like God is not speaking to us, but he is constantly speaking through his Word. You just have to pick it up and read all he has to say to you.



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Part 3

HOW?

Some people choose to start by Reading the Bible in a year program. That is a great way to read the Bible in one whole year. But if that seems too much and maybe too faced pace for you, don't worry there are many more ways you can read it.

Some people just start at the beginning and read it through. Another great way but can be a little challenging when you get to Leviticus.

A great way to read it is book by book. Now which books and in what order? Like walking into a good book shop, go to the section you are into and choose one. If you need help choosing then we have TYB Balance, TYB Chronological or TYB Foundations Bible plans if that helps or just choose a book and begin your adventure.

<https://www.trashyourbible.com/tyb-reading-plans>

DAILY HABIT WITH GRACE!!

My Bible reading is a marathon not a sprint, it's a lifestyle not a fad. It's great to read your Bible everyday but don't quit if you miss a few days. Just jump back in and start reading again.

Make your Bible reading work for you, take it to the beach, read it in the car before you go into work, the Bible is part of your life.

HOW?

WHAT TO NOTICE AS I READ MY BIBLE BOOK BY BOOK

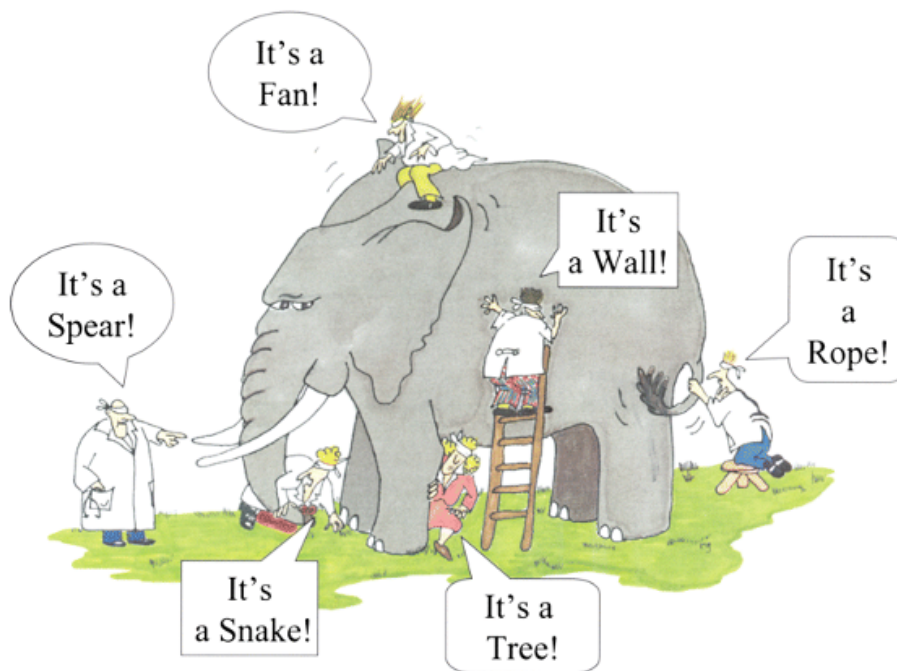
As you read the Bible book by book, there are some things to notice so that the book will come alive.

WHO?

WHEN?

WHY?

WHAT?



GET THE WHOLE PICTURE.

When you read the Bible books, you get the whole picture of what the author was saying. That is why we say read the whole book not a verse here and there. Imagine if I read every book by pulling verses out here and there, I would have no idea what it was saying. Also, if I read it verse by verse, I can read the verses out of context and really make them what I like. As the image explains; it could look like a snake, a tree, a spear but actually if you got the whole picture it would be an elephant.

HOW?

WHO?

Know who wrote it.

When you notice who wrote it, the Bible will come alive. You will get to know John, Peter, Jesus disciples, James, Jesus' brother.

Let me give you some examples:

John calls himself the 'beloved disciple' or 'the one that Jesus loved the most' basically. Because he was one of the disciples in his Gospel you are given more intimate details of the events. He is also very cheeky and funny, check out John 20 - the Running Race to the Tomb.

In 1 and 2 Peter you get to know this incredible man's heart. In James, you get to understand the brother of Jesus and the head of the Church in Jerusalem.

We have read all about these guys, John, Peter, James and now you get to read their very words.

WHEN?

Know when it was written.

A great thing to know as you read your Bible is when the books were written. That way you can understand what perspective they are writing from and what is happening when they are writing them.

Imagine reading a letter from someone written in WWII, once you know when they are writing it the letter becomes so much more.

Let me give you some examples:

The book of Judges is written after the events happened looking back on the failures of Israel, so we don't repeat them. So at times the author will say; 'In those days' or 'that is still there today.'

Judges 17:6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

HOW?

Looking at the date that 1 and 2 Timothy are written, I know that Paul is in prison and this is probably his last letter. You can hear that he is a little discouraged and has these 'everyone has left me' moments. Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8 knowing that he knows he is about to die, is quite heart breaking and inspirational.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day –and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

WHY?

Why did they write the letter?

Because paper and writing were so expensive and tedious in the times that these books were written (remember no computers or printers) the books were written in response to a situation (like in the New Testament) or to put down their history (like in the Old Testament).

So, knowing why they were writing the books or letters, especially when you read the New Testament again makes the Bible come alive.

In Philippians I know that Paul is in jail. Then I am going to understand the benefit of joy in adversity.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In Corinthians, we know that this church is in a mess and Paul is setting out specific instructions to stop them from abusing their freedom in Christ.

HOW?

SITUATIONAL BOOKS:

I mentioned in the videos that some books are situational, meaning that they are instructions into a specific situation like the COVID letter. This does not mean that they do not apply to us today, what this means is we need read it with the understanding of why it was written and apply the principle.

Some instructions that are specifically instructions for that time are 1 Corinthians 11:6 women must cover their head in Church or 1 Corinthians 7 It is good for the unmarried not to get married.

That is why today we don't have to wear hats in Church, and we are allowed to get married. A great way to do this is as you read, and you stumble across something that we don't do in church today or seems culturally different and for that time. Then read it and try and find the 'principle' that the author is telling them. Women covering their head is a way to honour and respect worship and the presence of God in church, perhaps today we won't go on Facebook during Church or especially worship. The principle of honour and respect in worship can translate across time and culture.

WHAT?

What sort of text am I reading?

The Bible is full of different styles of writing, poetry, songs, riddles, prophecy, letters, apocalyptic writing. It is great to notice what you are reading so that you can interpret it the right way.

On October 30, 1938, it was reported that cities across the USA erupted in panic over a dramatic broadcast of H.G. Wells War of the Worlds. Although the broadcast was introduced as a drama, it was conducted as a series of news bulletins without commercial interruption. Some who tuned in late to the broadcast reportedly thought an actual invasion from Mars was taking place!

What a great example to know what you are reading or listening to, so you apply it in the right way!

HOW?

The New Testament is full of letters. The Old Testament has historical books that are going to give you facts and details of what happened according to Israel history. Prophecies will contain imagery that will conjure up emotions, they are full of warnings and can sound quite judgmental, but they are meant to get the nation of Israel to change their behaviour.

Revelation, one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible because it has three genres in one. Part are letters, part apocalyptic and prophecy. Knowing what they are helps you to understand the text. Apocalyptic literature is a style of writing very common in the 1st Century, John used the common style of writing to communicate a very controversial and politically incorrect letter. The symbols were very common at the time, sea = evil, beasts coming from the evil of the sea. They are also very Old Testament over 500 references to Old Testament texts are found in Revelation. It's like the last Seinfeld episode where everyone comes back in one big finale!

When Revelation says, there was no longer any sea, all the surfers are devastated. But this is not a historical narrative this is an apocalyptic text, so you need to take it as imagery and find out what the sea was in the book. The sea is where all the evil comes from so when Revelation 21 says there was no more sea, it means there was no more evil.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.