

Biblos

What is the Bible and How to Read It

Study Booklet

**Segment One:
How the Bible Formed**

Sessions 1–4

Welcome

Thank you for taking your time to join our study on the Bible. The Bible is often misunderstood, misconstrued, misquoted and mishandled. I have been guilty of some of these mistakes over the years and only realize my errors as my knowledge and experience with the Bible has grown. There is no need to feel guilty or shameful if you realize you have changed opinions on a view you once held. If you are studying the scriptures correctly, this is a natural outworking.

This study is designed to give everyone who participates a stronger understanding of the texts within the Bible and how we should read them today. We will look at how the Bible came together, the context of these ancient texts which inform our understanding and some practical tips on studying the scripture today that everyone can use. Whether you have spent a lifetime studying the Bible or are brand new, it is my hope this course strengthens your abilities to read the Bible.

How the course is designed:

There are three major segments broken into four sessions each. Each session will include four videos. This structure is meant to take twelve weeks with each session covering one week. This guide has reflection questions for each video to help you think about the material presented. Feel free to use the videos as a type of daily study for four days of your week or at any pace which makes sense to you.

Additional Resources

Here is a list of the books I consulted in putting this study together. In no way does this list represent a comprehensive guide to becoming an expert on the Bible. Many of these books were already in my library or on my reading list.

- *Getting the Message* by Daniel Doriani
- *Holy Bible, Human Bible* by Gordon Oliver
- *How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns
- *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* by Gordon Fee
- *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton
- *Our Father Abraham* by Marvin Wilson
- *Reading the Scripture with the Church Fathers* by Christopher Hall
- *Scripture and the Authority of God* by N.T. Wright
- *The Good Book* by Peter Gomes
- *What Is the Bible?* by Rob Bell

In addition, there is a great podcast by Pete Enns called *The Bible for Normal People*. You can find it on his website: <https://peteenns.com/podcast/>

I do not always agree with the authors/scholars represented on this list, but I also believe it is good to have your own view point challenged by others to strengthen your own understanding.

