



deconstructing  
TOGETHER

# Weekend Resources

May 31, 2026

Can We Even Agree on the Bible?

**RECAP:** Everyone has questions. Some are big. Some are painful. And many feel safer to carry alone. But what if we could face our doubts—together—without walking away from Jesus? Bring your real questions. Stay connected. Don't walk away alone. Let Jesus meet you in the middle of your wrestling.

## MAIN POINTS

- The Bible is not a rulebook. It is a library of 66 books spanning various genres (poetry, history, law, apocalyptic) written over 1,500 years by 40 different authors,. Trying to read ancient laws out of context without looking at the overarching narrative of Jesus leads to misinterpretation.
- Contextual vs. Continual. Much of the New Testament Epistles were written to real people in specific cities dealing with specific cultural issues. Disagreements frequently arise when trying to discern which commands were descriptive for a specific ancient context, and which are prescriptive, continual commands for all time.
- Unity over Conformity. Questions and wrestling with Scripture are actually deeply biblical practices that Jesus Himself modeled. We don't have to agree on every secondary issue; 2.5 billion Christians overwhelmingly agree on the core doctrines of the faith. The unified story of Scripture points to Jesus, who is the true foundation of our faith.

## GETTING STARTED

- Have you ever read a passage in the Bible that felt confusing or contradicted what you always assumed was true? How did you typically handle that tension—did you feel permission to ask questions, or did you feel pressure to just conform and pretend you understood it?

## SCRIPTURE

- [Leviticus 19:19; 19:27; 19:28; Psalm 119; Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 2:45-47; Romans 10:4; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 4:1; 4:7-9; 1 Peter 5:14; Revelation 21:5](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Tom points out the Bible isn't an "instruction manual," but a diverse library of 66 books. How does understanding the different genres (like poetry vs. historical narrative) change the way you read and apply the Scriptures?
- Discuss the difference between "contextual" and "continual" commands. Why is it dangerous to simply say "if the Bible says it, that settles it" without doing the hard work of understanding the cultural and historical context (such as ancient instructions about slavery or specific women's roles in Corinth)?
- Jesus modeled a faith that included asking questions and listening, yet many modern church environments discourage doubt or wrestling with the text. Why do you think some Christians weaponize the Bible to shut down questions, and how can we cultivate a healthier "yoke" that feels like a gift of grace rather than a heavy burden?

## APPLICATION

- Identify one area of Scripture you have always struggled to understand or agree with. Instead of ignoring it, commit to studying its historical and cultural context this week, perhaps using a commentary or study Bible to dig deeper into the original meaning.
- Remember that the ultimate goal of reading the Bible is not just to acquire knowledge, but to encounter the person of Jesus. Before you read Scripture this week, pause to pray and ask God to reveal Jesus to you through the text.

## RESOURCES

- "The Bible is alive. It speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me." — Martin Luther