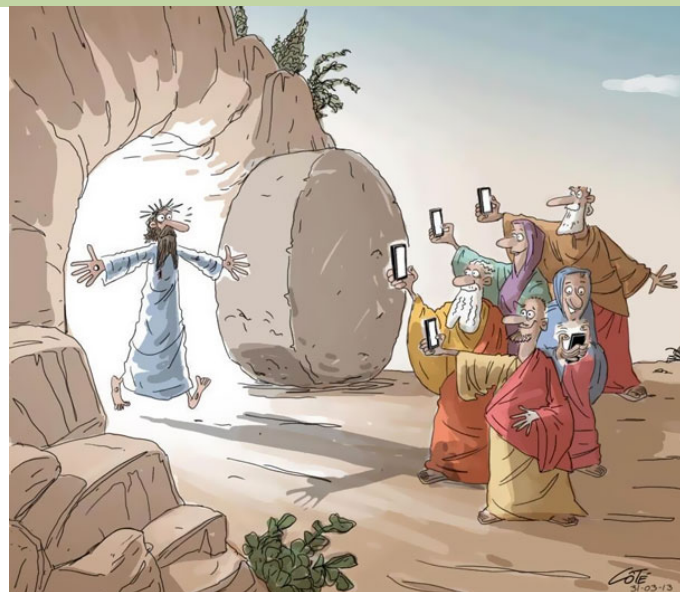


PART THREE: PANORAMIC PIC

64% of U.S. adults own a smartphone, and 46% of smartphone owners say their smartphone is something “They couldn’t live without.” Why? Of course, texting and calling play a big part. But an even bigger part is taking pictures.

Do you remember when cameras weren’t attached to our phones? They could zoom and flash and focus. Cameras were great. And remember photographs? They used to be physical things. You put them in a book or in a frame or even carried them around in your wallet! Those were good times.

Now we have smartphones. We’re taking more photos than ever, but what happens to them? We forget about the pictures we take so quickly that there are even apps that bring old photos to our attention. Many times, it’s easy for us to forget getting into God’s Word, because we don’t understand how it all fits together. Maybe it’s time for us to refocus our lens so we see the panorama of how God’s story all fits together within the 66 books we call the Bible.



BIG IDEA: Getting a panoramic pic of the Bible helps us see the big picture of God’s story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What assumptions have you ever made about the Bible that you’ve never bothered to actually find out by reading or studying?
2. Some books of the Bible tell the main storyline while the other books of the Bible fill in the historical, emotional, and relational context to the main story, very much like a photo album and a journal. How can seeing the Bible in this light help you feel less intimidated about reading the Bible?
3. Before hearing this message, what did you know about the history of the Bible as a book?
4. Why do you think it’s crucial that we understand the history of the Bible?
5. Most of us have a basic understanding of the history of our country. What price has been paid for the freedom we have as citizens of this country?
6. Do we have the same understanding of the price that has been paid for us to be able to hold a copy of the Bible in our hands?

Chris explained the division between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word Testament means *covenant, agreement a contract* or an *arrangement*. In a nutshell, **a covenant is how God relates to people**. During different times, God has related to people in different ways.

7. Chris explained that the Old Testament contains many covenants (covenant with *Noah, Abraham, David*), but primary covenant in the Old Testament God made with Moses and the Israelites. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Exodus 19:16-20:1-22, Exodus 24:12-18 and Exodus 31:18*. How and where did God write His laws?
8. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Deuteronomy 11:22-28*. Was the Mosaic a conditional or an unconditional covenant? What were the consequences to not following this covenant and laws?

The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant that either brought God’s direct blessing for obedience or God’s direct cursing for disobedience upon the nation of Israel.



9. Read *Exodus 19:8*. Who is doing the promising? Is it God or the people? Have you ever made a promise to God that you just couldn't keep? Have you ever tried to do good but struggled to do so?
10. Read *Hebrews 8:7-13*. Was the Old Covenant (*first covenant*) faultless? Where did God find fault? Has the New Covenant made the old covenant obsolete?
11. Compare the Mosaic covenant with the new covenant that God made through Jesus Christ. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Jeremiah 31:31-34.*

“The day is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant. But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.” Jeremiah 31:31-34

12. List the ways you can think of that the *Unconditional New Covenant* made by Jesus is different than the *Conditional Old Covenant* that God made with Moses.
13. Although the Old Testament speaks of events that happened in ancient times, do you identify with any parts of the Old Testament?
14. The New Testament continues with the grand theme of God's love found throughout the Bible. In what ways are you currently experiencing God's love in your life?
15. There is a 400 year gap between the writings of the Old and New Testament where the Israelite nation waited for God to speak and fulfill His promise. In what parts of your life do you feel like you're waiting for God to fulfill His promises?
16. What obstacles are preventing you from spending time reading the Bible this week?

THINK ABOUT IT

The Bible is the most extraordinary book in the world. Countless lives are changed by it. When read, it challenges us to think differently about ourselves and the world around us. As we begin to read the Bible and see as God sees, we are then empowered to do as God says. So all that's left is actually picking it up and reading it.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, using the attached reading guide, spend a couple minutes each morning reading a passage from the Bible.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.” Jeremiah 31:33

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO USE FOR YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

- Day 1:** Read the 10 Commandments in *Exodus 20:1-20*
- Day 2:** Read about David committing adultery with Bathsheba in *2 Samuel 11:1-26*
- Day 3:** Read about Nathan confronting David's adultery in *2 Samuel 12:1-22*
- Day 4:** Read David's Prayer of confession in *Psalms 51:1-19*
- Day 5:** Read Jesus' Response to a woman caught in adultery in *John 8:1-11*



Old Testament

LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

POETRY

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

GOSPELS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

HISTORY

Acts

LETTERS

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

PROPHECY

Revelations

