



onechurch

bigIdea

God spoke to us. Let that truth sink in deep. God could have chose to leave us in the dark and speak to us. God could have revealed Himself to us in a metaphysical formulation or a cosmic fireworks display. But He didn't. He chose to show us Himself through the kinds of stories that we use to tell our children. Nobody ever outgrows reading the Bible; this book widens and deepens with our years.



BIG IDEA: The way God reveals Himself to us is through the Bible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were God and wanted to reveal yourself to humanity, how would you do it? What methods would you use?
2. What was your exposure to the Bible growing up?
3. How would you describe your current perspective on the Bible? What role, if any, does the Bible play in your everyday life?
4. *Read Jude 3 and Hebrews 1:1-2.* According to these verses, does God still give new truth today apart from the Bible?
5. *Read Hebrews 4:12.* What does it mean that God's Word is active? That it penetrates?
6. *Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.* What does God-breathed mean to you? Can you think of a word picture that can communicate this 'breathed-in' idea?
7. What four things is the Bible useful for?
8. Before hearing this message, what did you know about the history of the Bible as a book?
9. Why do you think it's crucial that we understand the history of the Bible?
10. 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?
11. 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?
12. Around the world, there have been countries where the Bible is banned and destroyed. People were jailed and killed for their commitment to God's Word. Why do you think some are so threatened by the Bible?
13. How does it make you feel to know that the Bible is still under attack today? The Voice of the Martyrs aids Christ-followers around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. (For more info go to bibles.com and www.persecution.com)
14. Would your life change if your Bible was taken away?
15. *Read Psalm 119:16.* Has your Bible already been taken away simply by neglect? What will you have to do get your Bible back? How can you and your group help get the Bible in the hands of others?

William Tyndale

Tyndale was caught and incarcerated for 500 days before he was strangled and burned at the stake in 1536 for printing and distributing Bibles.

Martin Luther

In the early 1500's access to the Bible had been restricted to only a few select priests and church leaders. Martin Luther believed everyone should have access to the scriptures and openly criticized these restrictions. 1521 Emperor Charles V issued an order making Luther an outlaw, subject to arrest and death in response to his efforts to make the Bible available the common man.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Will you take the New Thru 30 Challenge? Go to www.youversion.com and start the new reading plan New Thru 30. This reading plan will take you through the entire New Testament in 30 days, and will stretch your heart and mind. On the heading above, click on *Bible > Reading Plans* and scroll down to the *New Thru 30 Plan*. Click *Start This Plan*, and let the 'eating of this book' begin!!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

NEW THRU 30 READING PLAN

Day	Date	Bible
Sunday	9/18	Grace Day
Monday	9/19	Luke 1:1-9:62
Tuesday	9/20	Luke 10:1-20:47
Wednesday	9/21	Luke 21:1-24:53, Ephesians, Philippians
Thursday	9/22	Colossians, Hebrews
Friday	9/23	Philemon, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 Timothy, Titus
Saturday	9/24	Grace Day
Sunday	9/25	Grace Day
Monday	9/26	John 1:1-10:42



Movie Suggestion:

"Luther" (2003) is the biography of Martin Luther, the 16th-century priest who led the Christian Reformation. His efforts to make the scriptures available to the common believer resulted in his persecution and being put on trial for heresy.

