

## One Continuous Story

Over sixty percent of the Bible is a sequential story, a narrative that leads learners to Jesus. Not knowing the storyline of the Scriptures from beginning to end makes it impossible to understand what they say and apply their instruction.

## How To Use Talk Thru the Old Testament

Dr. Bruce Wilkinson developed Walk Thru the Bible's strategy of using hand signs and keywords to help local church members memorize the biblical narrative. Disciple Daily has re-purposed the Walk Thru the Bible system to disciple Jesus' followers one-on-one and in small groups.

There are forty lessons in Talk Thru the Old Testament. Each lesson includes a five-minute video demonstrating the lesson hand sign and keywords.

- Watch the video.
- Memorize and practice the hand-sign and keyword.
- Read the Bible passages for that video.
- Teach what you learned to your family, friends, and colleagues.

Take your time. Don't rush through the Talk Thru the Bible series. Take a week to explore the ideas and concepts introduced by each video and lesson. You are:

- Part of a growing community of Jesus' followers,
- Making disciples one story, one person at a time until the Lord returns.

### A Word of Caution!

This lesson series is a training resource. Its purpose is to equip you to do what others demonstrate here. Please, do not use these videos as the content for another Bible study. You can demonstrate the hand signs and keywords, tell the story, read the passages, and conduct conversations for/with the people God wants you to disciple. Make God's words your words. Have some serious fun!

## The Old Testament

Think of the Old Testament as a five-act play. Each act has two scenes. Four key events or people highlight each scene.

### Act 1 - Beginnings

Scene 1 - Four Great Events

- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Nations

## Scene 2 - Four Great People

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

## **Act 2 - Wandering**

### Scene 1 - Moses' Life

- Moses
- Passover
- Law
- Tabernacle

### Scene 2 - Moses' Ministry

- Offerings & Feasts
- Counting / Spying
- Wandering / Dying
- Second Law

## **Act 3 - Promised Land**

### Scene 1 - Promise Realized

- Joshua
- Divide / Conquer
- 12 Tribes
- Judges

### Scene 2 - Seven Cycles

- Deborah
- Gideon
- Samson
- Everyone did what was right in their own eyes except Ruth.

## **Act 4 - Kingdoms**

### Scene 1 - United Kingdom

- Samuel
- United Kingdom
- Saul - No Heart
- David - Whole Heart

### Scene 2 - Divided Kingdom

- Solomon - Half Heart
- Divided Kingdom
- Mostly Bad Kings
- Prophets Speak!

## **Act 5 - Exile & Return**

### Scene 1 - Captivity

- Israel Scattered
- Judah Exiled
- Judah Returned
- Zerubbabel Temple

### Scene 2 - Restoration

- Esther Queen
- Ezra People
- Nehemiah Walls
- Wait, Messiah!

## Creation

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3

Go outside and look around. Think about the territory where you live, work, or play as a garden. You were placed in your garden by God.

### Talking Points

- The first event in the Bible is CREATION: "In the beginning God created..."
- There is an ordered sequence. God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said, "Let there be light."
- There is a time frame. God spoke His light into the darkness on the first day. God's completed His creative work in six days.
- Over the first three days, God created something that was filled over the second three days.
- God gave a qualitative commentary on His work, "It is good." At completion on the sixth day, everything together "is very good!"
- God placed the first couple in a garden that was to be enjoyed.
- There was just one rule in the Garden of Eden.

### Background Comments

Read Genesis 1 and 2 out loud. Don't worry about someone hearing you. Hearing God speak changes the people in your garden.

#### "In the beginning, God..."

Before anything, there was God. Genesis 1 provides an ordered account of God's actions during the first seven days of recorded history. Genesis 1:2 presents the world as empty and chaotic. There was no light. In Genesis 1:3, God speaks light into the darkness. God has been working to bring order to His world since that moment.

### Order Out of Chaos

The Bible explains that during the first three days of Creation, God made spaces that He filled during the next three days. What the Lord created during days 4-6 cannot exist without what God made during days 1-3.

Many questions arise from studying the Bible.

- **What existed first, darkness or light?**
- **If the sun, moon, and stars were created on the fourth day, what is the light source on the first day?**

When reading the Bible, we are often so hurried to finish that we miss important details that lead to understanding. **Slow down. Look closely at what God wants you to know.** Six times in Genesis 1, we read, "there was evening, and there was morning." Every day, darkness preceded the light. The first hearers of the Bible understood that the beginning of each 24-hour day occurred at sunset.

At the end of the first day of Creation, God saw that what He had done "was good." Nothing is said about the quality of work on day two. The work of days three through five was declared "good." His crowning creative work was completed on the sixth day. He filled the land with animals and created the first humans. At the end of the sixth day, God looked at all He had done together and declared it to be "very good."

The Hebrew title of the Bible's first book is "Bereshit." It means "beginnings." The first chapter of Genesis presents a satellite view of all six days of Creation. Genesis 2 is a magnifying glass look at the sixth day. The first two chapters of Genesis tell the story of a perfect world that no one living today has experienced.

**Start a conversation with the people in your garden about the first instructions given by God to mankind.**

### **Bible Conversation Questions**

- Identify the main character of Genesis 1 & 2.
- Briefly describe God's work. Was it flawed in any way?
- What instructions were given by God on the sixth day? Who did He speak to?
- What was accomplished on the seventh day?