



Getting the big picture of all of Scripture

Overview

The Bible is the most influential, trustworthy and important collection of writings in human history. In order to apply it, we must first understand it. This week we are seeking to answer the question: What is the Bible?

Icebreaker

Have you ever tried to read the Bible from cover to cover and gotten "stuck in the weeds" (usually somewhere in Leviticus)? What was that experience like, and what made you stop?

Discussion

The Impact of the Word

"Bible Stats" from the sermon: 5–7 billion copies sold; translated into 3,600 languages; the first book copied on the printing press.

1. **Cultural Influence:** We often use phrases like "a drop in the bucket" or "the writing on the wall" without realizing they are biblical. How does it change your perspective to know that the Bible has shaped our language, our laws (like the need for eye-witnesses), and even our greatest art?
2. **Sacrifice:** We heard about John Wycliffe and William Tyndale, who risked execution just so common people could read the Bible in English. Why do you think the "powers that be" were so afraid of people having the Bible in their own language?

Understanding the Library

The Bible isn't just one book; it's a library of 66 books written by 40 authors over 1,500 years.

1. **The Structure:** Looking at the "Literary Structure" (Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, Gospels, Letters), which section do you usually find yourself gravitating toward? Which section do you find most intimidating?
2. **The Unified Story:** Despite having dozens of authors from three continents, the Bible tells one cohesive story (Creation, Fall, Israel, Jesus, Church, New Creation). How does the fact that the Bible is textually pure and historically preserved affect your trust in what you're reading?

The "Why" Behind the "What"

Read Psalm 119:105 (ESV) and 1 Timothy 4:8 (ESV).

1. **A Lamp and a Light:** Psalm 119:105 says the Word is a "lamp to my feet." In what specific area of your life right now do you feel like you are "in the dark" and need that lamp to show you the next step?
2. **Spiritual Fitness:** 1 Timothy 4:8 compares physical training to "godliness" (training in the Word). We all know the value of going to the gym, but why do we often find it harder to "work out" spiritually by reading Scripture? What is the "promise for the present life" that comes from reading the Bible?

Going Deeper (Optional)

- **Canon:** Discuss the meaning of "Canon" (measuring rod). Why is it important for the church to have a "standard" like God's Word?

Personal Application & Prayer

Next Step: Read the Bible in a Year reading plan with us!

- **Action:** Download the Tribes Church app, tap the "Bible tab," then tap "Plan" and read along.
- **Prayer:** Close by praying that God would give the group a "hunger" for the Word and that, as we go through this series, the "Big Picture" would become clear.