



RELEVANT

How To Study the Bible



**Lesson One:
Who Is The Bible Really About?**

The Bible is not simply a collection of ethical principles, moral cliches, or abstract life lessons:

- ▶ Imagine a single, unfolding thrilling drama.
- ▶ A story of epic proportions that is more fascinating than your favorite fairy tale because it is true.
- ▶ That's God's Word.

If we ever hope to properly handle the stories in the Bible:

We must first grasp the story of the Bible.

- ▶ And that story, the one that traverses its way from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, though recorded for you, **is not finally about you.**
- ▶ The focus is **far higher** and the hero **far better.**

The Bible has one ultimate plan, one ultimate plot, one ultimate champion, and is about one ultimate King named Jesus Christ.

- ▶ What we wanted to show everyone tonight is that Jesus is authentically Eastern, but he's also authentically trans-cultural.
- ▶ He breaches all nationalistic and ethnic borders we have in place for him.
- ▶ In other words, he belongs to no one, but he belongs to everyone, and speaks everyone's language.
- ▶ So, it's important for everyone, Western, Eastern, Southern, and Northern to understand the context he worked in to see the richness of his ministry and the impact on history.
- ▶ Scriptural Examples:
 - ▶ **Genesis 3:15** - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.
 - ▶ **John 5:46-47 NIV** - If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?
 - ▶ **Luke 24:44-49 NIV** - He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Reading the Bible Christocentrically or understanding Jesus Christ as the focus, gives us proper grounding for application.

- ▶ For it is through knowing, seeing, and treasuring Christ that we can properly respond to or apply the Word of God to our lives.
- ▶ When we divorce application from intent, we've missed the intent of the Bible, and that is to transform us into the image of Christ.
- ▶ And it is by seeing Christ that we are transformed into his image (2 Cor. 3:17-18).
- ▶ So, for the Bible to be properly applicable it must be Christocentric or seen through the lens of the entire story being the story of Jesus Christ.

Does every verse say something about Jesus?

No, but it is still connected.

- ▶ It is connected narratively and textually to the rest of the book and the entire Bible, which is about Christ.

Moment of Reflection: How did this lesson impact you today?

