

How to Use The Bible Series Study Guide

Watch *The Bible* series with your group or have them watch it on their own. Then use this study guide to help you dive deeper into God's Word by discussing what you watched. *The Bible* series begins Sunday, March 2 on the History Channel at 7pm Central/8pm Eastern and runs each Sunday night at the same time for five weeks. It concludes on Easter Sunday, March 31. If you can't watch the show live, then consider recording so that you can watch with your group at a later time.

The Bible series has 10 parts, but the History Channel is showing two parts together during each broadcast. This study guide reflects that fact and is broken down into five sessions instead of 10.

Each session is broken down into 3 parts:

- The first is an icebreaker question that you can use to help your group become more comfortable in opening up and sharing with each other.
- The second features questions and scriptures related to that episode. The questions and scriptures reflect three Bible stories from the episode. You can go through all three sets of questions, or pick out the one or two that would be most interesting for your group if you are limited on time.
- The final section is a list of next steps you might consider sharing with your group.

Finally, YouVersion has created a special reading plan that follows along with *The Bible* series. This plan is five weeks long, and features Bible readings based on what is shown in each week's episode. This is a great companion to use with this study guide. You can find this reading plan at www.youversion.com under the category of "new" reading plans or "Partial Bible" reading plans. You can also find the plan on your YouVersion app on your mobile device.

For more information and resources related to *The Bible* series, please visit www.bibleseries.tv.

Parts 1 and 2: Creation Through Joshua

Icebreaker

What was your favorite scene from this episode and why?

1. Creation and Noah

You can read the account of God's creation and the fall of man in Genesis 1 – 3 and the account of Noah and the flood in Genesis 6 – 9:17.

Discussion Questions:

- God's creation is majestic. How have you connected to God through His creation?
- What does the creation story reveal about God's character to you?
- What does the creation story reveal to you about yourself?
- What does God's flooding of the earth and Noah's survival teach us about evil, sin, and Satan?

2. Abraham and Isaac

You can read the account of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22:1-19.

Discussion Questions:

- To be chosen by God is both a blessing and a test. Abraham had to prove his faith over and over. Share one or two ways that God has tested your faith. How did you respond to your test of faith?
- What did the story of Abraham and Isaac teach about you God and yourself?
- How has God been gracious to you?
- What's one thing that God might be calling you to sacrifice in your life right now?

3. Moses: Plagues, Passover, and the Parting of the Red Sea

You can read the account of the plagues in Exodus 7 – 11, the account of Passover in Exodus 12, and the account of the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus 13:17 – 15:21.

Discussion Questions:

- What did you learn about God from these key moments in the life of Moses and the Israelites?
- The plagues and Passover represent the importance of listening to God. How well do you listen to God? In what ways do you hear from Him?

- What did you learn about sin from these key moments in Moses' life?
- What are some of the things God has delivered you from?

Next Steps

1. Go to the source and spend time in God's Word this week by reading The Bible reading plan on www.youversion.com. This plan is a great companion to The Bible series as each week's readings feature passages from the episode. You can find the reading plan under Partial Bible reading plans on the YouVersion website or on your Bible App.
2. If you can, take time this week to enjoy God's creation. As you're enjoying your time in God's created world, also take time to talk to Him and maybe even read His Word. Soak up God's majestic creation and use it as an opportunity to connect in a deeper way with Him.
3. Identify that one thing God might be calling you to sacrifice. Talk about it with God and those you trust and begin to identify your next steps.
4. Learn more about the passages of the Bible that the stories from this episode come from by visiting www.biblex.com and going through the "Beginnings" module on the website. This module will help you better understand the key stories, themes, and characters of the first five books of the Bible.

Parts 3 and 4: Joshua Through Solomon

Icebreaker

What was your favorite scene from this episode and why?

1. Rahab and the Spies

You can read the account of Rahab and the spies in Joshua 2:1-24 and Joshua 6:1-27.

Discussion Questions:

- What did you learn about God and sin from Rahab's actions?
- Describe a time when you were scared to do something that you knew was right. What did you learn from your experience?
- Where might God be calling you to take a risk?
- Despite her being a prostitute, God used Rahab in a special way to help the Israelites take Jericho. What does this say about the type of people God uses? In what ways is God using you right now?

2. Samson

You can read the full account of Samson in Judges 13 – 16.

Discussion Questions:

- What did you learn about God from Samson's story?
- How has God used your strengths and weaknesses in accomplishing His purposes?
- What did you learn about temptation and sin from the life of Samson?
- Samson was a strong man with a weak will. What are some of the temptations you struggle with most? What steps can you take that will help you in dealing with these temptations?

3. David, Goliath, and Bathsheba

You can read the account of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:1-58, and the account of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11.

Discussion Questions:

- What giant situation might you be facing in your life that you need the type of faith David showed in slaying Goliath to overcome it?

- Describe a time when you displayed extraordinary courage. What did you learn from your experience?
- What did you learn about God from these key events in David's life?
- Why do you think sin often leads to more sin? How can one best break the cycle of sin?

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2. If you are struggling with temptations, then seek help this week. Talk to a trusted friend or a pastor. If you don't already have one, consider finding an accountability partner of the same sex that can help you deal with your temptations.
3. Learn more about the passages of the Bible that the stories from this episode come from by visiting www.biblex.com and going through Sessions 1 and 2 of the "History" module on the website. These lessons will help you better understand the key stories, themes, and characters of the Old Testament.

Parts 5 and 6: Jeremiah Through Jesus' Early Life

Icebreaker

What was your favorite scene from this episode and why?

1. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel

You can read the account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 1 – 3 and the account of Daniel in the den of lions in Daniel 6:1-28.

Discussion Questions:

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego took a stand for their faith in God. In what areas of life do you find it most difficult to stand by your faith in God? Explain.
- What did you learn about God in the way He protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and Daniel?
- What qualities in Daniel do you admire most?
- What steps can you take to become stronger and bolder in your faith?

2. The Birth of Jesus

You can read the account of Jesus' birth in Luke 1:5-80 and Luke 2:1-21.

Discussion Questions:

- How has the fact that “with God, nothing is impossible” taken root in your life?
- What can you learn about God in the way He brought His son Jesus into the world?
- How might your view of Mary and Joseph have changed based on the way their trials were depicted in this episode?
- The shepherds and wise men dropped everything they were doing so they could make the journey to worship Jesus. What does worship look like in your life?

3. Jesus Calls Peter to Be His Disciple

You can read the account of Jesus calling Peter to become first disciple in Luke 5:1-11.

Discussion Questions:

- In this episode, Jesus said He had come to change the world. How might Christ be calling you to be a world changer?
- How are you a “fisher of men”?

- What might God be calling you to give up so that you can fully follow Him?
- What can you learn about Christ by the fact that He chose the most ordinary of men to be His disciples?

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2. Learn more about the passages of the Bible that the stories from this episode come from by visiting www.biblex.com and going through the "Prophets" module on the website. These lessons will help you better understand the key stories, themes, and characters of the Bible.

Parts 7 and 8: Jesus' Ministry Through His Arrest and Trial

Icebreaker

What was your favorite scene from this episode and why?

1. Jesus Feeds the 5,000 and Walks on Water

You can read the full account of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and walking on the water in Matthew 14:13-36.

Discussion Questions:

- What did these scenes teach you about the nature of Christ?
- What are some ways God has provided for you?
- How would you rate your current level of faith in Christ? If you need improvement, what steps can you take to improve?
- What types of emotions and thoughts did you have in watching the way Jesus was portrayed in this episode?

2. The Last Supper

You can read the account of the Last Supper in Luke 22:7-38.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Jesus chose to use bread and wine to represent His body and the new covenant?
- How can we follow Christ's example of servanthood?
- How did you feel while watching the Last Supper? What stood out to you the most?
- Describe a time when you were full of fear but your reliance on Christ gave you courage. What did you learn about Christ from your experience?

3. Peter Denial and the Garden of Gethsemane

The account of Peter's denial of Jesus and Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane can be found in Matthew 26:31-75.

Discussion Questions:

- How do you see yourself in the actions of Peter? In what ways might you deny Christ?

- During this time, Jesus' and the disciples' faith was greatly tested. How can you stand firm when your faith is tested?
- When has your faith cost you something? What are you willing to give up for it?
- Jesus turned to prayer in one of the darkest moments of His life. How would you evaluate your prayer life? What steps might you need to take to improve it?

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2. Learn more about the passages of the Bible that the stories from this episode come from by visiting www.biblex.com and going through the "Gospels" module on the website. These lessons will help you better understand the key stories, themes, and characters found in the life of Christ.

Parts 9 and 10: Jesus' Crucifixion Through Revelation

Icebreaker

What was your favorite scene from this episode and why?

1. The Crucifixion

You can read the accounts of Jesus' crucifixion in Matthew 27 and John 19.

Discussion Questions:

- When you saw Jesus being beaten and tortured in this episode, how did it make you feel knowing that He endured such agony for your sins?
- How has your life been changed by Jesus' sacrifice?
- What are some specific images that stood out to you in the way Christ's death is depicted in this episode?
- After seeing the sacrifice Christ made for you, is there any specific action that it motivates you towards? If so, what is it?

2. The Resurrection

You can read the accounts of Jesus' resurrection in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20.

Discussion Questions:

- What specific things stood out to you in the way Jesus' resurrection was portrayed in this episode?
- How does Jesus' warm and loving attitude towards all the disciples including those who deserted Him give you comfort?
- Who is one person you know that needs to hear about the Good News of what Jesus did? How will you go about sharing it with them in the next few weeks?
- How have you found joy through your relationship with Christ?

3. Paul's Conversion

You can read the account of Paul's encounter with Christ in Acts 9:1-19.

Discussion Questions:

- Share how you encountered Jesus and asked Him into your life. How has your life changed since that moment?

- Jesus called Paul to share the Good News with the world. What is God calling you to do with your life? What's your next step?
- Why do you think so many of us hesitate when God calls us to do something?
- What was your favorite moment from The Bible series and why? What kind of affect do you think it has had on your faith in Christ?

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2. Learn more about the passages of the Bible that the stories from this episode come from by visiting www.biblex.com and going through the "Pauline" and "Letters" modules on the website. These lessons will help you better understand the key stories, themes, and characters found beginning in the Book of Acts and ending in Revelation.