

Confirmation Session 4

Bible

The Bible is a book, but it's unlike any other book in the world. It's God's word: His message to all the world. We can trust God to teach us, guide us, and comfort us through the Bible.

The Bible Is Powerful, Precious and Popular

- + It is estimated that more than four billion copies of the Bible have been distributed. That's way more than the *Harry Potter* series, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *The Hunger Games* trilogy combined.
- + The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, and has been translated into over 2400 languages.
- + The Bible is illegal in many countries, and yet, it is so precious to people that they risk their lives to share it with others.

What Is The Bible?

The Bible Is A Book

- + Actually, it's a book filled with more than 60 books.
- + The name Bible comes from the Latin word *biblia* which means "books" or "library of books."
- + It was written over a span of 1500 years by about 40 different authors.
- + It is divided into two main sections: The Old Testament (OT) and The New Testament (NT).
- + The OT was written before Jesus lived on earth and the NT was written after.

The Bible Is More Than A Book

+ “All Scripture is inspired by God.” - 2 Timothy 3:16a

+ God is the architect of the Bible. He used people to write it, but decided exactly what it would say.

+ “While I was studying at university, I was able to read many of the most influential books ever written, but none of them impacted my life in as profound a way as the Bible.” - *Jason*

Questions:

- What do you think the purpose of the Bible is today?

- In one word, how would you describe your initial feeling towards the Bible?

- Do you think there is a difference between the Bible and a self-help book or magazine?

- Why do you think the Bible is read and admired in so many cultures, by so many different people, in so many eras of history?

The Bible In Our Lives

Jesus Is The Main Character

+ “This is amazing: the entire Bible is like one big arrow pointing to Jesus. ‘Cause this is the number one thing God wants to show us: Himself.” - *Ben*

+ Through the Bible, we see the personality and character of God.

It Guides Us

+ “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” - Psalm 119:105

+ “The Bible’s like a big flashlight guiding us through life. It talks about things we deal with everyday: friends, money, work, sex, pain and joy, just to name a few.” - *Jason*

The Bible Leads Us To Relationship With God

+ Reading the Bible is not just about learning facts about God; it invites us to encounter God.

+ “It’s so important to read it and study it, but we can’t miss the main thing: discovering Jesus in its pages. It’s about knowing God through His word.” - *Jason*

Questions:

- Have you ever tried reading the Bible before? How did it go?

- Have you ever heard somebody teach from the Bible in a way you connected with?

- Do any quotes from the Bible have special meaning for you?

How Do I Read The Bible?

**It's helpful to set a regular time and place to read the Bible.*

6 Tips For Reading The Bible:

- + Don't flip and point
- + Genre matters
- + Ask lots of questions
- + Pray
- + Talk to people
- + Put it into practice

Questions:

- Why do you think the Bible is so popular?

- Why would governments not want the Bible in their country?

- What do you think about the idea that the Bible is like a guide for living on earth?

- Has the Bible ever influenced your thoughts or actions?

- Which of the 6 tips for reading the Bible (see list above) stood out to you?