

EXPLORING THE BIBLE | 1 • WHY STUDY THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP STUDY | EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WEEK 1: Exploring the Bible | Why Study the Bible

If your group hasn't had a chance to introduce themselves, take a few minutes to do so before getting started with the discussion questions.

- What is the most significant challenge you have when it comes to studying the Bible?
- What are you hoping to gain from this study?

Play teaching video for Week 1.

- [Vimeo](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Discussion Questions

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to grant you the wisdom and perspective to see what God wants to reveal to you through His Scripture.

- Diana listed three reasons to study the Bible. Here are a few verses on those topics to get us started.
 - to learn who God is and recognize his voice (Read [John 3:16](#); [1 John 1:5](#))
 - to gain wisdom and to mature in our faith (Read [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#))
 - to know Jesus and understand what it means to follow him (Read [John 14:6](#); [Ephesians 5:1-2](#))

With those in mind, if you were to picture your life in a closer relationship with God than it is now, what would be different?

What specific area of your life do you think needs growth right now, and how can you use the Bible to help you grow in that area?

- The Bible is a collection of eight different genres of literature: narrative, law, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, biography, letters, and apocalyptic.

How is understanding that the various books of the Bible were written to specific people in specific times for specific purposes help us to learn from them and interpret them wisely?

- Throughout the Old Testament, not only were there prophecies of a coming Christ, but people, themes, and events also served as foreshadowings of Jesus the savior of the world. What does this tell us about God and his overall will for humankind?
- Looking around, it's easy to see that we live in a fallen world.

How can reading the Bible and learning about God and your relationship with him bring hope and joy into your life?

What will making a practice of exploring the Bible regularly throughout the week look like for you? What challenges might crop up to deter you, and how do you see yourself addressing those?

If you are practicing this already, share your experience and tips for success with the group.

Going Deeper | Put into Practice

These activities are designed for you to explore different methods of the weekly practice. Pick one or two to try this week.

- Write down what you are hoping to gain from this study. Be specific about what you want to learn and why.
- You will get the most understanding and personal growth out of this class by taking the time to “make it your own.” Commit yourself to a regular time of Bible study in your schedule. How?
 - Schedule Bible reading time. If taking time for prayer and study is new to you, you might want to start small.
 - Identify likely obstacles and interruptions to implementing your plan. Figure out how to address those should they come up. (Hint: If you intend to get up earlier than usual to read, this plan starts with going to bed earlier than usual the night before!)
 - Try out your plan. Make adjustments if needed, but keep at it.