

## Alpha: Session 6 – How and Why Should I Read the Bible

### QUESTIONS:

Q1. If your house was burning down, and all your family and pets and phone were totally safe, what *one thing* would you take with you?

Q2. What do you think the purpose of the Bible is today?

Q3. Do you think the ideas in the Bible are old-fashioned or outdated? Do you think the Bible is worth reading today? Why or why not?

Q4. Have you ever tried reading the Bible? How'd it go?

Q5. Do any quotes from the Bible stand out or have special meaning to you?

Q6. What are your biggest questions when it comes to the Bible?

Q7. How do you feel about the idea of God speaking to us through the Bible?

Q8. Jassie and Peter gave seven tips for reading the Bible (get a Bible, find a time and place, don't flip and point, genre matters, ask lots of questions, pray, talk to people). Which of these, if any, stands out to you?

Q9. Why would governments not want the Bible in their country?

### THE BIG IDEA

The Bible is the primary way God speaks to us and reveals himself to us. The Bible points us to Jesus and gives us instructions for living. Through the Bible, we're invited to connect with God and build a day-to-day relationship with Jesus.

### KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

God's word is our highest authority for what we believe and for how we live.

The Bible is a guide – it shows us how to live and it gives us boundaries.

It's like the entire Bible is one big arrow pointing us to Jesus. And this is the number one thing God wants to show us – himself.

### The Bible is the most...

- Popular
- Powerful
- Precious (Psalm 19:10) ... **book in the world.**

'People do not live on bread alone, but on every **word** that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4).

## 1. BRINGING REVELATION – GOD HAS SPOKEN

- Bible – collection of books by 40+ authors over 1600 years
- Inspired: God-breathed

‘All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true; to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.’ (2 Timothy 3:16).

### But what about difficulties in the Bible?

- Jesus is the interpretive key
- It’s authoritative (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
- Practical wisdom:
  - Guidelines for living
  - Guidance for good decisions

## 2. BUILDING RELATIONSHIP – GOD SPEAKS

### The Bible is like a love letter from God:

- To those exploring faith (Romans 10:17; John 20:31)
- To those who are Christians
  - Become like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18)
  - Joy and peace in the midst of a storm (Psalm 23:5) - Guidance (Psalm 119:105)
  - Health/healing (Proverbs 4:20–22)
  - Defence against spiritual attack (Matthew 4:1–11)
  - Power (Hebrews 4:12)
  - Cleansing (John 15:3)

‘Reading the Bible generates life. It produces change. It heals hurts. It builds character. It transforms circumstances. It imparts joy. It overcomes adversity. It defeats temptation. It infuses hope. It releases power. It cleanses the mind’. Rick Warren

## 3. HOW DO WE HEAR GOD SPEAK THROUGH THE BIBLE?

- Make a plan
  - Find a time
  - Find a place (‘a solitary place’, Mark 1:35)
- Find a pattern
  - Ask God to speak:  
Read a short passage  
Bible reading notes  
Bible in One Year app – bibleinoneyear.org
  - Ask yourself:  
What does it say to me? what does it mean to me? how does it apply to me?
- Respond in prayer
- Put it into practice (Matthew 7:24)

### RECOMMENDED READING

*Why Trust the Bible?* - Amy Orr-Ewing

*30 Days* - Nicky Gumbel

*The Bible in One Year* - Nicky Gumbel (Print and e-book)