

# LIFE|group Leader's Guide

---

THE BIBLE PROJECT "How to Read Your Bible" VIDEOS 15 & 16

**For the Leader:** This guide is intended to help you, not dictate you. Please don't read from this page verbatim. For you to best lead your group, this has to come from *your voice in your words*. So read this ahead of time and let it guide you where it's helpful. You know your group better than I do. Use the questions you think will best help facilitate conversation. Feel free to skip some (there's a lot), add some, or simply follow the natural direction of your group (within reason). We trust you to discern that.

Before you jump into the videos, set the stage and convey the heart behind this series. That will help people focus and engage the videos.

**HEART:** Interacting with God's word is one of the most central aspects of living life with God. But reading the Bible can be really difficult, even for longtime Christians. These videos will help you come to the Bible with greater confidence and will help you UNDERSTAND what you're reading.

**PREFACE:** There is a lot of information covered in these short videos. If it's too much to follow, that's ok. Listen and see what sticks out to you.

## Video #15: "The Gospel"

1. What stood out to you in this video? What did you learn?
2. What role do the Gospels play in God's Big Story?
3. How do the Gospels connect Jesus to stories in the Old Testament? Did any of the examples in the video surprise you?
4. BIBLE: Read **Matthew 8:14-16**. Then read **Isaiah 53:1-6**. What is Matthew trying to say by drawing this connection?
5. How are the 4 Gospels different from each other?
  - a. What are the advantages of having four different Gospel accounts?
6. The video said that the Gospels invite us to participate in the New Creation. What does that look like?

## Video #16: "The Parables of Jesus"

1. What stood out to you in this video? What did you learn?
2. Why do you think Jesus told parables?
3. Why do you think Jesus would intentionally leave things vague by telling parables?
4. How did Jesus' understanding of God's Kingdom go against people's expectations?
5. BIBLE: Read **Luke 8:16-18**.
  - a. What do you think Jesus is saying here?
  - b. How does the first statement (verse 16-17) relate with the second (verse 18)?
  - c. How does this parable spark your imagination?
6. Why would Jesus conceal the truth?
7. How can we continue to engage with Jesus' parables today?

## NEXT STEPS:

If we really want to be growing in our faith, we have to keep taking steps forward. So think about a NEXT STEP you can take over the next couple weeks...

1. Here are some **SPECIFIC** ideas:
  - a. Read more about the Gospel and the parables of Jesus.
    - i. You can find them on the LIFE|groups Webpage, or here: <https://bibleproject.com/other-resources/study-notes/how-to-read-the-bible/>
    - ii. There's a lot of content here. Pick one to start with and work your way through it!
  - b. After listening to how the 4 Gospels are different from each other, pick the one that sounds most interesting to you.
    - i. Take the broad structure given in the video, and write it down.
    - ii. Start reading through the Gospel you chose, and write down how you see the structure play out.
    - iii. If you come across any parables that are confusing, write it down, and revisit it a few times over the week. See if God uses it to spark your imagination in new ways.
2. Here are some **RECURRING** ideas: (Same every week)
  - a. **Learn more about the BIBLICAL NARRATIVE by watching more videos from the Bible Project:**
    - i. Overview of the Old Testament - <https://youtu.be/ALsluAKBZ-c>
    - ii. Overview of the New Testament - <https://youtu.be/Q0BrP8bqj0c>
  - b. **Check out an app called, "READ SCRIPTURE"** - This app is designed to help you read the Bible in terms of the Grand Story. The first day shows a video overview of Genesis from the Bible Project and helps guide you through a "quiet time."

**3. What NEXT STEPS are you going to take over these next couple of weeks?**