

LIFE|group Leader's Guide

THE BIBLE PROJECT "How to Read Your Bible" VIDEOS 13 & 14

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 #13: "The Law"

1. What stood out to you in this video? What did you learn?
2. Are there any aspects of "The Law" that you've wrestled with?
3. The video refers to God's laws as "invitations to trust God's wisdom." Why is this difficult for us as humans?
4. What functions (PLURAL) did God's laws serve in His relationship to Israel?
5. What did Jesus live and teach concerning God's law?
6. What benefits should we expect from studying God's law today?
7. BIBLE: Read **Deuteronomy 19:15-21** as an example. (Remember to keep this in context of what Jesus taught in the New Testament).
 - a. These laws may seem harsh, but what is the heart behind them?
 - b. What are they supposed to accomplish?
 - c. How can this particular passage help us mature as Christians who trust in Jesus?

Video #14: “The Books of Solomon”

1. What stood out to you in this video? What did you learn?
2. In what ways are the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon connected to the first story in the Bible – The Garden of Eden?
3. What choice do we humans have about how to gain the wisdom we need to rule creation?
4. How does this “wisdom literature” contrast with the choice of Adam and Eve? What happens when we pursue wisdom?
5. Why do you think so many of us don’t seek wisdom, or refuse to follow it?
6. In Proverbs a man pursues a woman and in the Song of Songs, a woman pursues a man. What do these characters symbolize in the “Big Story” of the Bible?
7. BIBLE: Read **Proverbs 3:1-18**.
 - a. How does this passage point to God’s heart for humanity?
 - b. Do you see the connection to the Garden of Eden?
 - c. What would it look like for us to follow the wisdom in this passage?

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 the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20.
 - i. Write out how each commandment expresses the heart of God.
 - ii. Reflect on areas where you have fallen short, and how you can repent.
 - iii. Reflect on what it means that Jesus has fulfilled the law on your behalf. Write down your thoughts and feelings
 - iv. Try to memorize them. (It’s surprising how many Christians can’t name half of them.)
 - b. Read some of the Laws given in Deuteronomy (Starting in Chapter 4)
 - i. Write down which ones you think apply to us today, and which ones were specific for Israel.
 - ii. What principles can be drawn out of these Laws that can be valuable for us today?
 - iii. How do you see God’s heart expressed in them?
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?*