

THE BIBLE

What is it? | Who wrote it? | What is it for?

The Bible is God's Word.

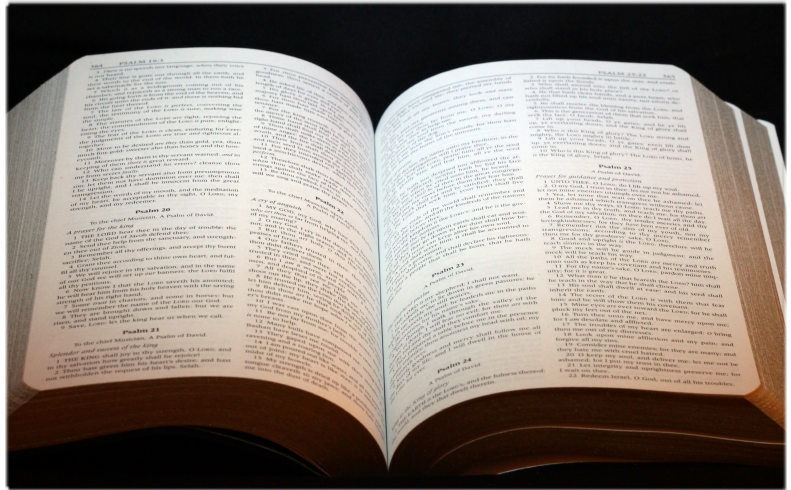
It is a unique collection of books in that, while we believe people wrote it, they were directed by God to record exactly what he wanted to say. God "inspired" them, helping them to record things exactly as he wanted, in order to tell us exactly what he wanted.

It tells us:

Who God is! That's the whole point. God gave us his word so that we could come to know and understand him, at least in part. Whatever it says about what happened or when is secondary to that fact...the Bible is about who God is. The way everything is written is intended to help us understand that.

It contains:

66 books which were written over more than 1500 years by over 40 different people. These books cover a whole host of material, including history, letters, poetry, stories, instructions, and prophecy.



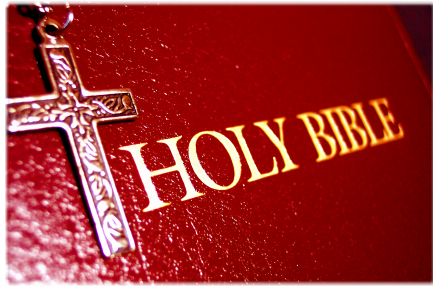
Where do I start?

With a Bible! Get yourself one. The New International Version (NIV) is a great translation - very readable and accessible. If you can, get yourself an NIV Study Bible, as it is filled with tons of helpful notes and commentary. Start reading in the Gospel of Luke, and go from there.

Find someone to journey with you as well! Connect with other believers in a Life Change Group or a Bible Study, and search God's word with other people. God speaks to us individually, but he also speaks through the community of believers. We need others to help us learn and grow, to challenge and encourage us in our journey.

Then, try some of these links and resources:

[The Story](#) - Max Lucado - a great overview of the whole story of the Bible. God's word, while it has many parts and pieces, tells one story, and it is important to understand how all of the pieces fit into it!



How do we know it's not all just made up?

Can we really trust the Bible? It all happened so long ago, and the story has been retold so many times...how could it be reliable? It is easy to throw out questions like this, but the fact is we have really good reasons to trust the Bible and what it tells us about God.

There are different ways that we can explore and see that God's word is trustworthy:

- Archeological evidence (okay, the guy looks ridiculous, but his stuff is good)
- The accuracy of the record
- Reason and Logic

(they're videos...watch them...)

Christianity is not a blind faith. Questions are good and healthy, and God wants us to engage with him critically and openly. He wants us to understand, and to have confidence in our faith. We have good reasons to believe what we believe, and good evidence to support the claims that the Bible makes!

The Case for Christianity - Lee Strobel - great answers to questions about the Bible and Christianity.

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth - Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart - how do we approach the Bible?

The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict - Josh McDowell

- book and video

ReasonableFaith.org - Dr. William Lane Craig - tons of books, videos, debates and talks that will help to give you confidence as you approach the Bible and your faith.

The Reason for God - Timothy Keller - more great answers to hard questions, and evidence for God and his Word.

And PRAY! It's God's word, he wants to help you understand it!

