



*New Song*  
Community Church

# How to Study the Bible

## General Overview of the Bible:

- ✓ **Big Picture:** the Bible is God's true story of His relationship with mankind. There are four themes in the total history that are also repeated as sub-themes throughout.

1. Creation
2. The Fall
3. Redemption
4. Restoration/ Reconciliation

- ✓ **Layout of the Bible:**

The Bible, though considered one book, is a volume of 66 books in two "testaments," 39 in the Old and 27 in the New. "Testament" means Covenant or Promise.

**Old Testament** is the record of God's dealings with man before Christ, **B.C.**

1. Books of the **Law**, also known as the Pentateuch or Torah  
*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*
2. Books of **History**.  
*Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*
3. Books of **Poetry**.  
*Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*
4. Books of **Prophecy**.  
*Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel*  
*Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggi, Zechariah, Malachi*

*The books categorized as "Major" are longer and have broader content. "Minor" prophets are shorter and tend to be addressed to specific situations.*

**New Testament** is the record of God's dealings with man after Christ, **A.D.** (Anno Domini, Latin for "in the year of our Lord").

1. Books of **History**.

*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts*

2. **Paul's Letters** or Epistles.

*Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*

3. **General Letters** or Epistles.

*Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude*

4. Book of **Prophecy**.

*Revelation*

✓ **Belief, Attitude and Approach to the Bible**

From the Welcome to the Family Class section, "Our Statement of Faith:"

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christ-followers in beliefs and living, the foundation and reality by which all is measured and evaluated. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. *2 Tim 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Tim 1:13, Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6, Proverbs 30:5*

From the Welcome to the Family Class section, "Lifestyle Statement:"

THE BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

**2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)** <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe and do.

The Bible provides the worldview through which we view all. We have identified the need to seek God's viewpoint as a priority, recognizing the divide between earthly realm and heavenly realm realities.

THE SCHOOL OF

# Wesleyan Studies

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*The Optimism of Grace*

**Dr. Cliff Sanders,** <https://wesleyanstudies.org/studies/how-to-study-the-bible>

## **Session #1—How To Study The Bible**

A. Why offer this Training?

Have you been told the same about the importance of Bible Study and yet experienced the same lack of training?

Is motivation enough when attempting to study the Bible?

B. The Nature of the Bible:

C. The Critical Question we have to Answer to study The Bible:

D. How to go about knowing what a text means by answering the original audience.

Reading strategy (context)

4 Step Process

1. Prayer

2. Observation

Grammar

History

3. Interpretation

Asking and Answering questions of your observations

4. Application

What will we do with what we have learned?