



PASTOR KYLE MEIER

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

APPLICATION GUIDE

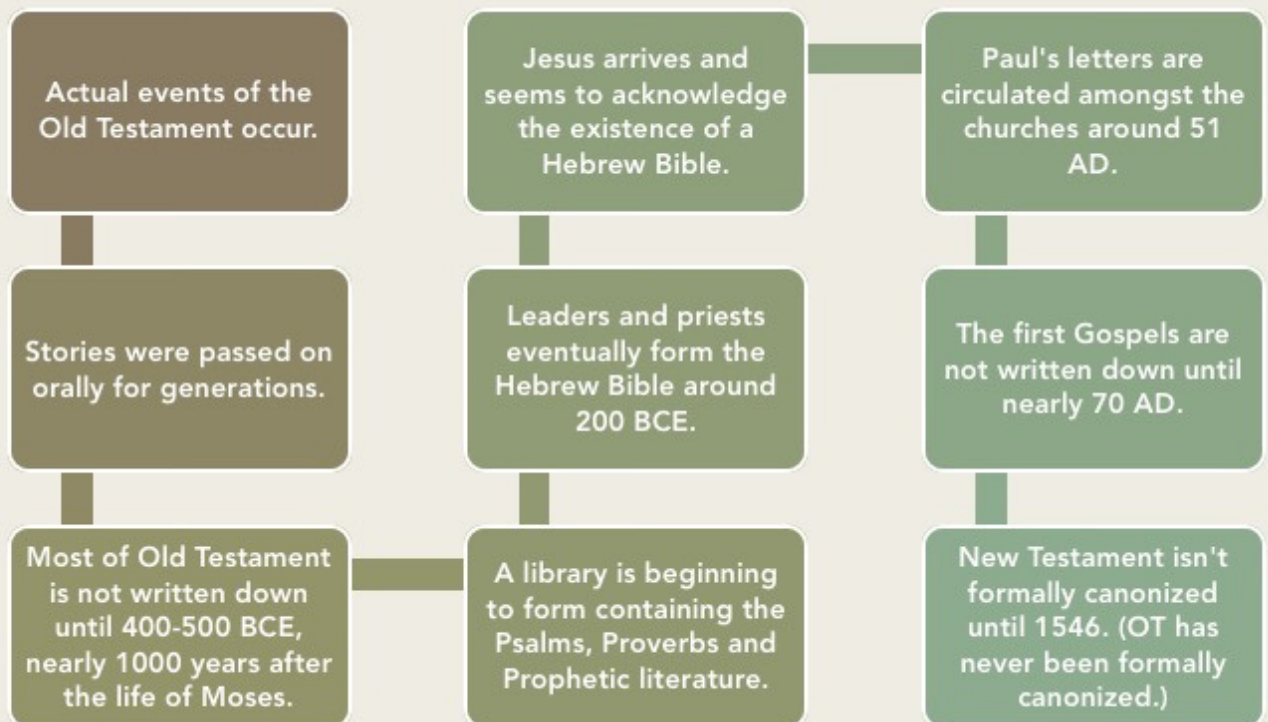
HOLY
BIBLE

A WORD FROM OUR PASTORS

Thank you for signing up for "How to Read the Bible!" We are so excited that you are taking this course. We cannot wait for you to discover many of the things that made us fall in love with this deeply complex book. We've found that when you approach the scriptures with the right expectations and with the right tools, these words will come to life and transform the way you think, believe and live in the world! Which is precisely why we wanted to provide those tools to you via this course.

As you go along, please know we are here to support you and answer any questions you might have. Just remember to be patient with yourself. The theologian, Karl Barth, once said that you are entering into a "strange new world" when you read the Bible. If you get lost, know that is normal and the Spirit will not abandon you. Keep pressing on!

THE PASTORAL TEAM
THE PEAK
APEX UMC
519CHURCH
FIESTA CRISTIANA

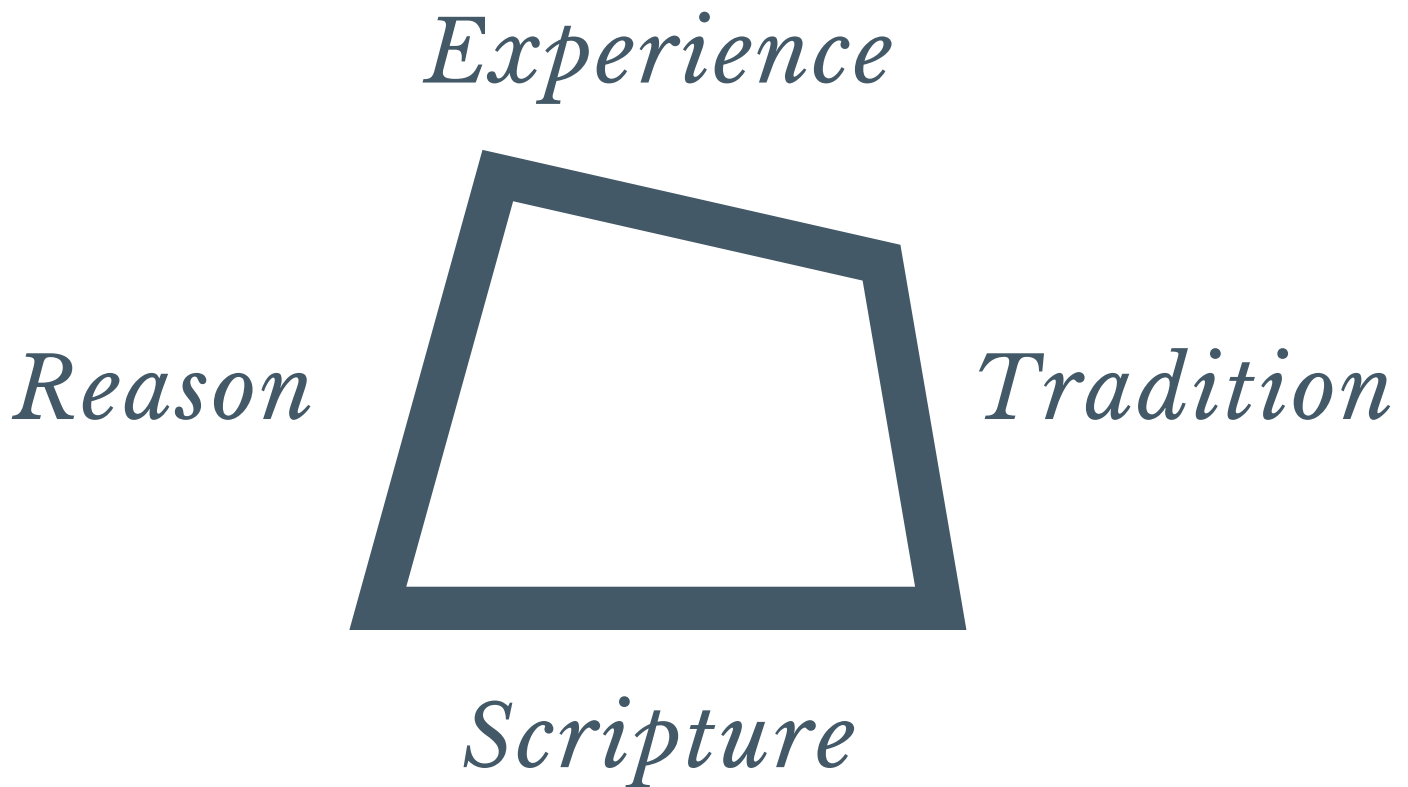


1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Def: The work of God's people, who are located within very specific historical, cultural, geographic, and political contexts, to grasp the movement and message of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Growing up, how were you taught to read the Bible?
2. How does it feel learning about the "human side" of the Bible?



THE QUAD

Another tool created by the Methodist Christians is what is called the "Quadrilateral." In attempts to read the Bible accurately, they encourage reading scripture alongside the voices of reason (science), tradition (history), and your own personal experience .

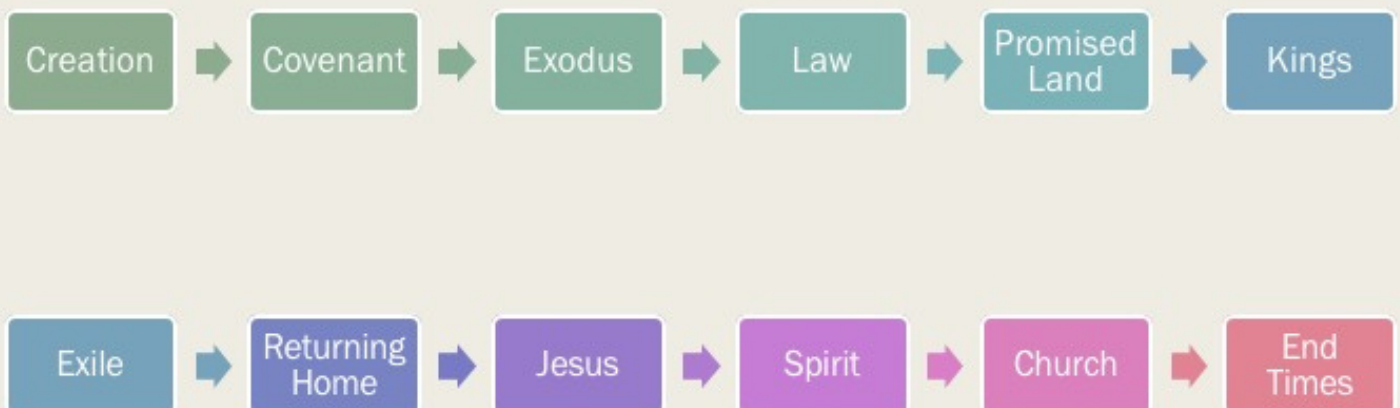
2: WHERE ARE WE IN THE STORY?

The very first question to ask yourself when reading the Bible is: *where does this passage occur in the larger story?* Where does it occur within the larger narrative?

Exercise:

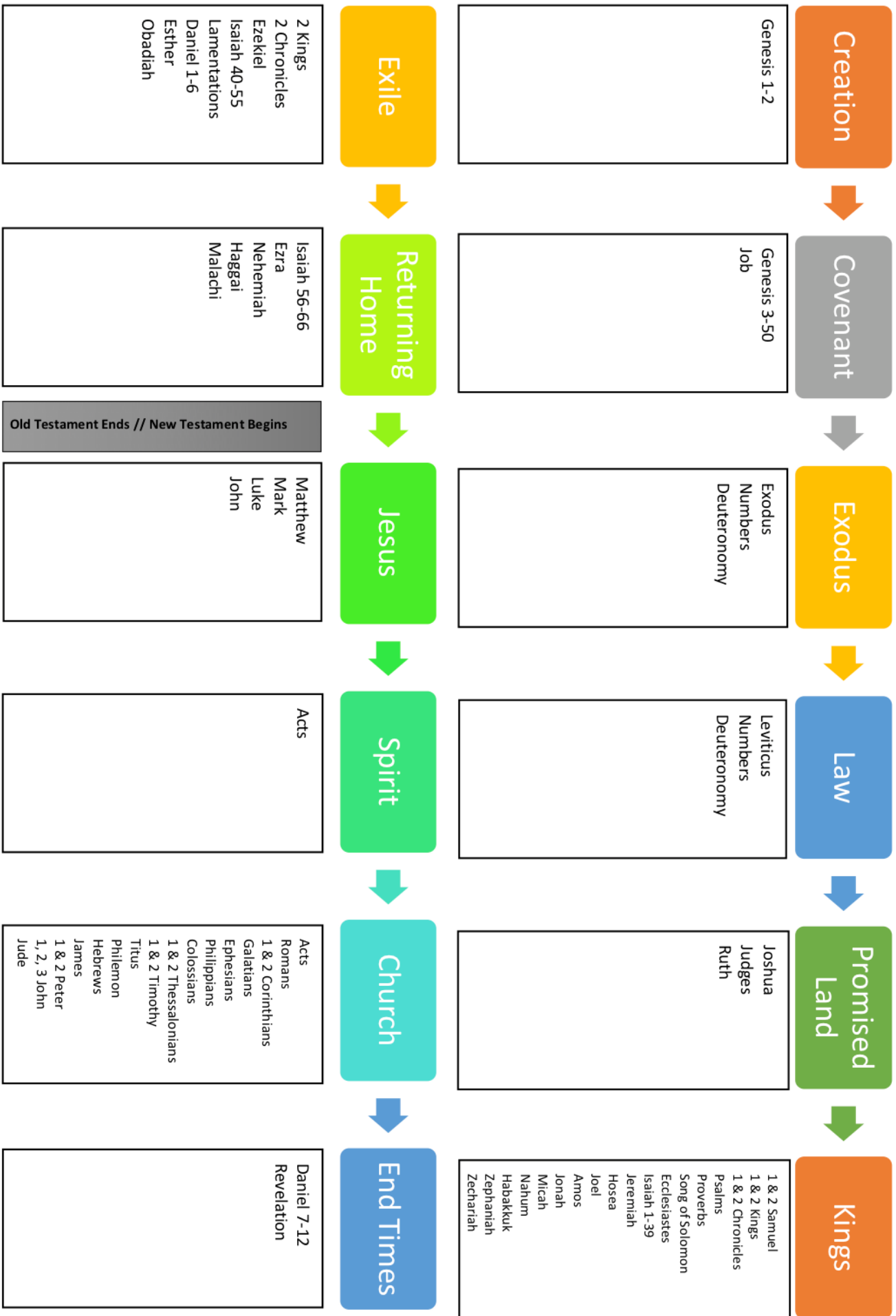
1. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-18. Now, read John 12:12-15.
2. Knowing the history of kings in the Bible and the type of king that Jesus was, does God's hesitancy in 1 Samuel make more sense now?

12 Major Plot Points



*See Appendix A

Appendix A



Narrative:

To tell you a story.

Poetry:

To express an emotion.

Law:

To set boundary lines.

Prophecy:

To reveal the truth.

Letters:

To mentor or teach.

Apocalyptic:

To forecast the future

*See Appendix B

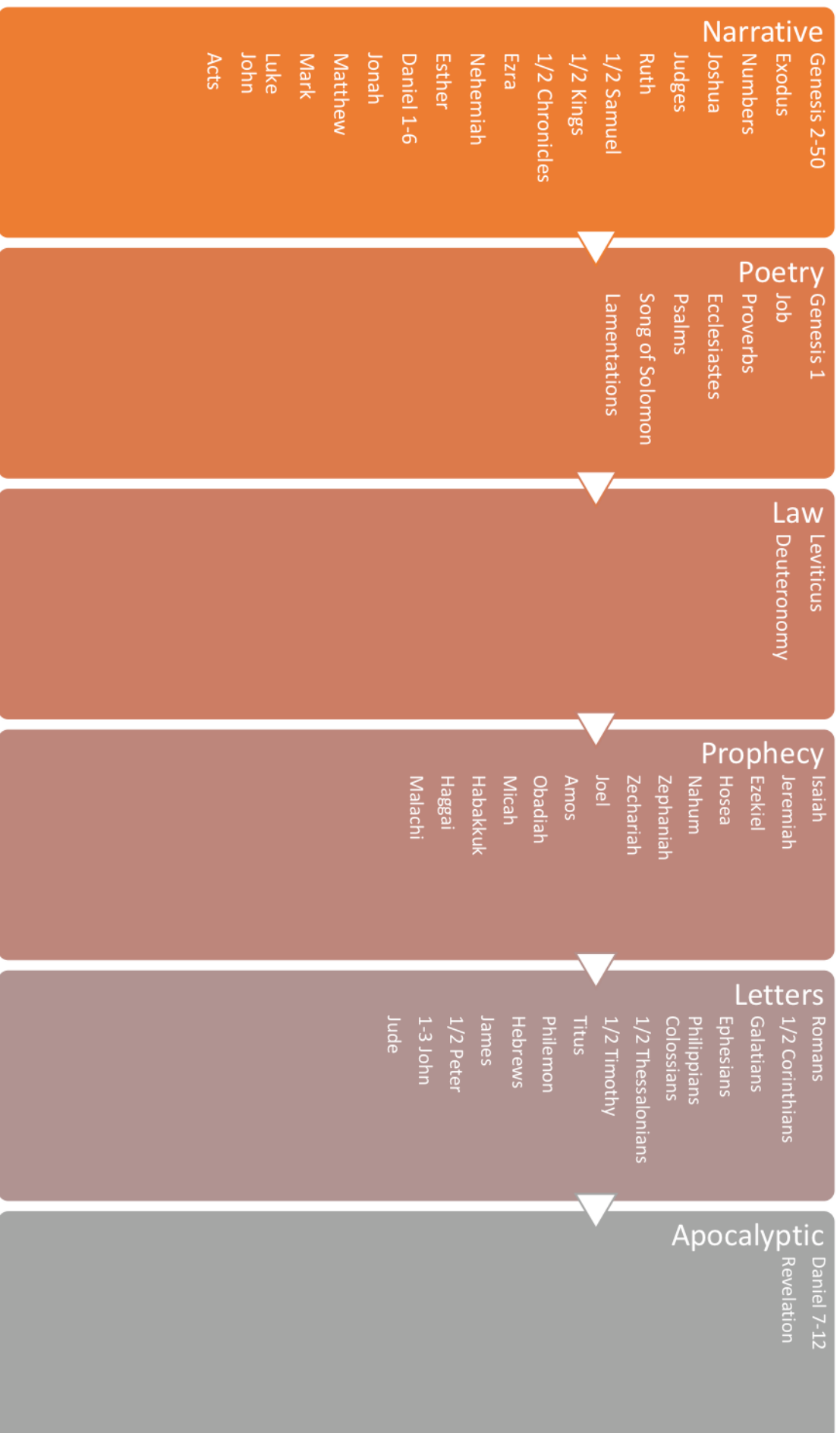
3: WHAT GENRE IS THIS?

Just like movies, TV shows, music, and artwork, there are several different genres of writing within the Bible. The key is figuring out which genre it is so you can better understand the author's goals and expectations for the reader.

Exercise:

1. Read Psalm 139 while pretending the author is a scientist or biologist. What conclusions do you reach?
2. Now, read it again acknowledging that the author is a poet. How did your interpretation change?

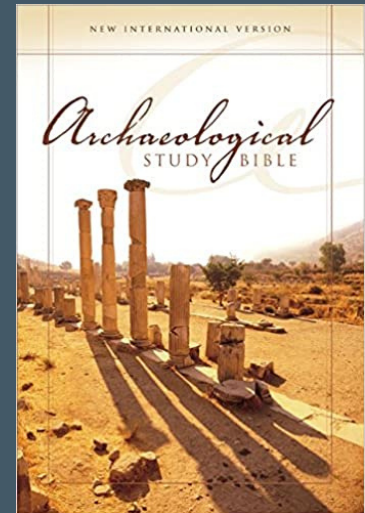
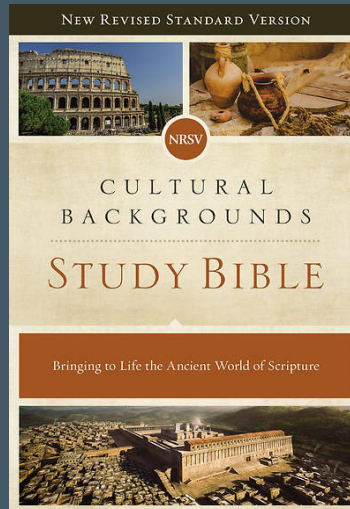
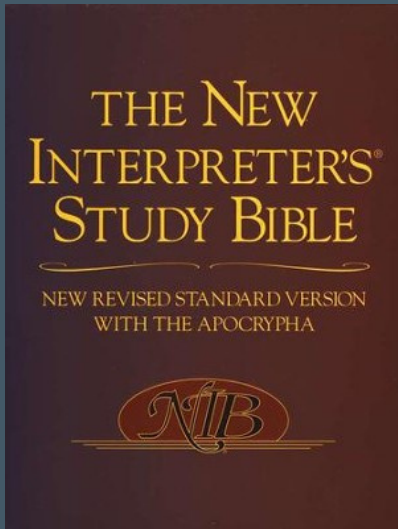
Genre List for Books in the Bible



Appendix B

SESSION 4

Here are a couple Study Bibles we recommend!



4: CONTEXT

- **WHO:** Who is the author and who is their target audience.
- **WHAT:** What is their message. Are there themes that keep showing up? What larger story or message are they trying to convey?
- **WHEN;** When did these events take place? And moreover, when did someone actually write them down?
- **WHERE:** What city, region, or country did this occur? Place plays a very important role in understanding the significance of each passage.
- **WHY:** Why is the author making sure to include this story or message? What effect were they hoping to have on their audience?

- Discussion:
- Share about a time when learning the history behind the Bible changed your understanding of a particular story.



blueletterbible.org



"Bible" app



textweek.com



cokesbury.com

The Jesus Filter



5. WOULD JESUS AGREE?

In John 5:39, Jesus criticizes the religious leaders for searching the scriptures for eternal life, but they failed to realize they point to him. In other words, he was teaching us that Jesus gets the final Word on whether or not it comes from God.

Discussion:

A couple of references to this were made in the video. What are some other examples of scriptures that don't align with what Jesus taught or did?

TIPS:



1) Identify who YOU are in the story. Remember that sometimes you'll be the person scripture is critiquing.

2) Quality over quantity. Focus on one word or phrase that speaks to you.



3) Don't get discouraged if the application lesson isn't obvious. It might be for a later use.

6: HOW DO I APPLY THE BIBLE TO MY LIFE?

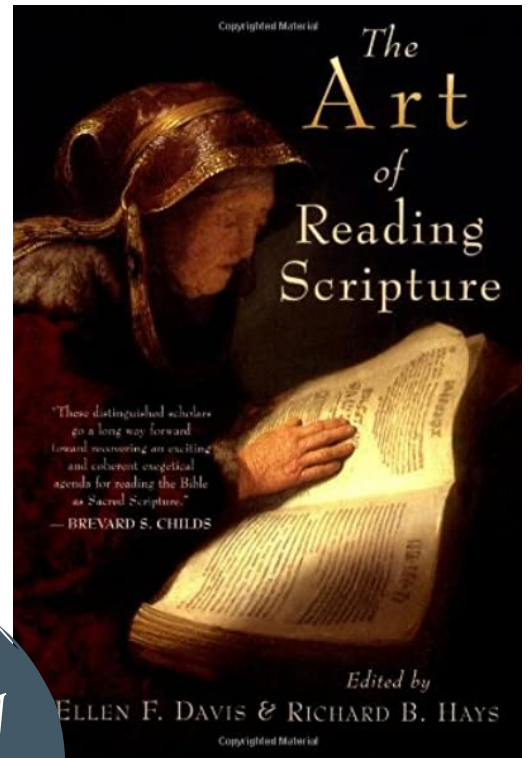
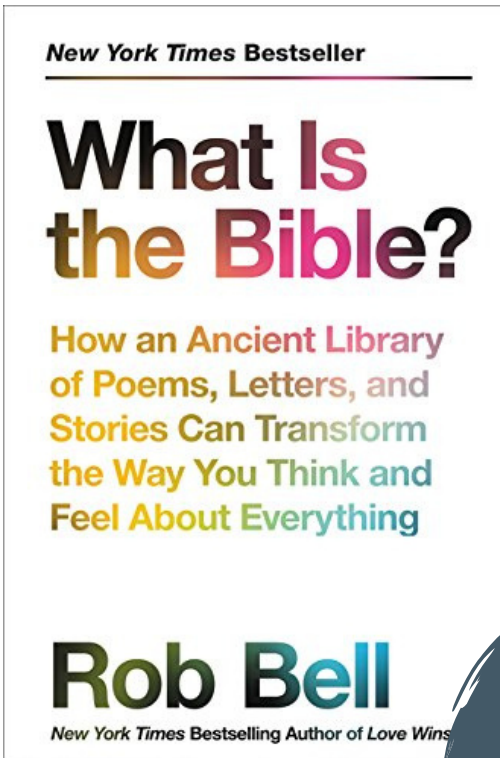
Think of the Bible as a pastor or mentor in your life. A voice that offers comfort, challenge, and wisdom on how to approach our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a time when it felt like the Bible was speaking directly to you?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when the application lesson wasn't for that day, but a couple of weeks or months later?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

WHO ELSE CAN YOU LEARN FROM?



And so many more!

