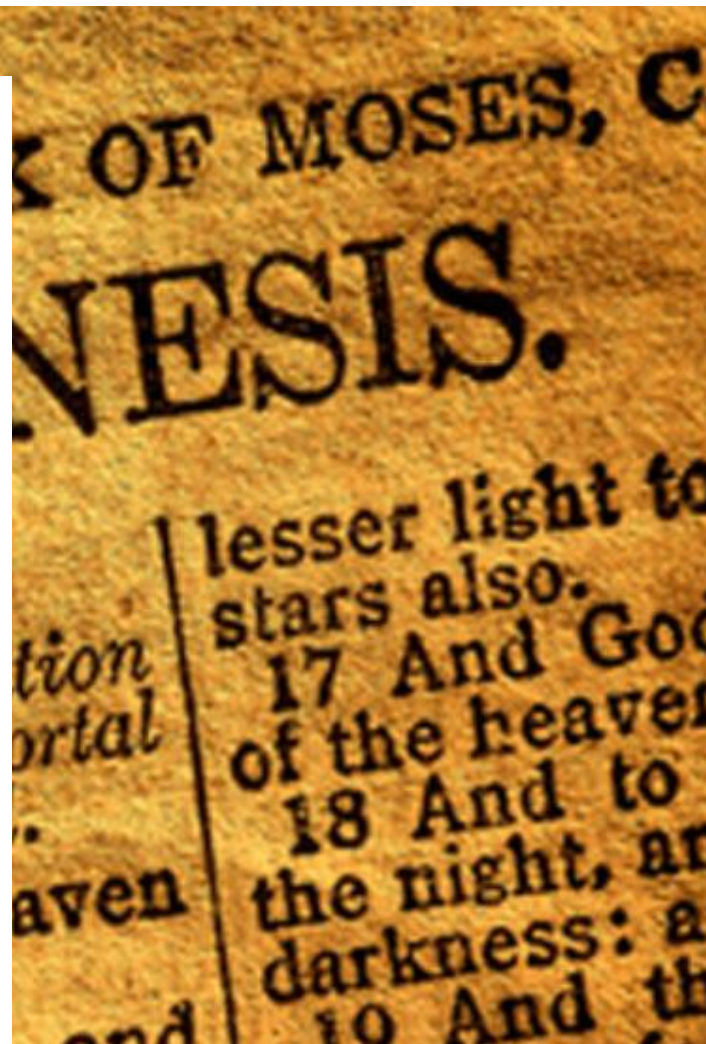


# DISCOVERY GROUPS 2018

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## The Christian Bible

MARCH 4 - MARCH 10

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Discovery Groups



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# The Christian Bible

Sample

*What is the Bible?*

## Everyone is Welcome

Discovery groups are open to everyone to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their perspective.

## Opening Thought

I was in college when I first started to discover the Christian faith. I remember being intimidated and uninformed about the Christian Bible. At that time, I was serving in student government as the VP of our college. I recall a student government train trip to Albany, New York where I sat in my seat trying to understand the Gospel of Luke. I was reading the life of Jesus, which included a heavy dosage of agriculture, animals, and priests. At that time, I was also enrolled in classes like microeconomics, political theory, and mass communication. People were telling me the Bible is God's timeless message to humanity. What? Doubt was setting in. As the train inched closer and closer to our state capital, I felt like I was reading more about historical farm tales rather than God's timeless message. I eventually just shut the book.



Fast forward to the present day, I am still learning the Christian Bible and really treasure this special book. I went on to earn degrees on the Bible at a theological school and was fortunate enough to study aspects of the original written biblical language. Today, I believe in the Bible and actually speak on its contents and overall message often. I think that even in our scientific age, God's wisdom is still greater than ours. I am thankful for this book – a book about Jesus Christ – that can change us, shape us, and equip us for life.

## Questions

Have you ever read through the Bible?

What is the Bible? Does it have a primary message?

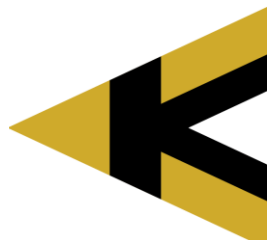
How should we interpret the Bible?

What other questions do you have about the Bible or Christianity?

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# What We Believe About the Bible

## I Am Part Of A Church



I am part of a new church startup in the city that provides important, ageless truth and relationship in the most clear and honest way possible. We have services with teaching and liturgy rooted in ancient Christian tradition as we seek to know God and be good neighbors. We believe the Christian faith should not be first defined by its limits, but rather by its central message. The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are historic

confessions that demonstrate the heart of the Christian faith. Particular to this conversation, we believe a few things about the Bible, most importantly these three things:

## Inspired by God

In short, inspiration is the Christian belief that God has providentially and supernaturally worked through human authors (with all their personalities, cultures, and concerns) powerfully, carefully, accurately and even mysteriously to inspire these writings. We don't believe God dictated the Bible, but rather what they wrote was absolutely in sync with the mind of God as they were influenced and guided by God's Spirit.

## The Right Collection

Related to inspiration is the concept of canon: the 66-books of the Bible. We believe that the books included in the Bible are the right collection because they have a special intrinsic quality to them. People that actually read the Bible and seek to understand will sense the "power" of these words. This is important because these 66-books were not first affirmed because of a church council decree. Instead, they were first affirmed because people and councils recognized they were inspired by God.

## The Highest Wisdom

If the Bible is the right collection of *Almighty God*-inspired books that has been divinely preserved and protected throughout some time, then it is a very special book. We believe this and desire to follow the example of Jesus Christ who consistently sought the Scriptures to guide, lead, and strengthen him.

## Suggested Reading

John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*

# The Christian Bible

# What is the Bible?

# Everyone is Welcome

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## Opening Thought

Group Facilitator provides an introduction or lead-in pertaining to this week's topic: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Questions

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## What is the Bible? Does it have a primary message?

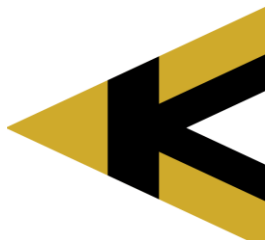
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