

## Session 1 | The Angst

How would you describe your relationship with the Bible?

How often do you read the Bible? What do you get out of reading the Bible?

Reflect on the quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

Why do I read the Bible? **“Because I am a Christian. Therefore, everyday in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God’s Word in Holy Scripture is a lost day for me. I can only move forward with certainty upon the firm ground of the Word of God. And, as a Christian, I learn to know the Holy Scripture in no other way than by hearing the Word preached and by prayerful meditation.”**

What encourages you from this quote?

What challenges you from this quote?

Why are you watching this series? What do you hope to learn?

What do you want to gain in your life from reading and knowing the Bible?

## Session 2 | The Word of God

What does it mean to you for the Bible to be inspired?

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “God breathed”?

What are some ways you have encountered God through the words of the Bible?

What are some ways you have heard God speak to you in the Bible?

What are some things in your life right now that you need God to speak to you through the Bible?

Here are some more resources and reading to explore about the authority and inspiration of the Bible:

[NT Wright, \*Scripture and the Authority of God: How To Read The Bible Today\* \(Book\)](#)

[NT Wright, \*On Scripture and the Authority of God\* \(Article\)](#)

[Tim Keller, \*On the Authority of Scripture\*](#)

[The Bible Project, \*What is the Bible?\*](#)

### **Session 3 | A Birds Eye View**

How can just reading a verse of the Bible here or there keep us from understanding the big picture of the Bible?

Why is understanding the big picture of the Bible important?

It's helpful to keep the five movements of the Bible in mind:

Creation and Fall

Israel and Covenant

Exile

Messiah

New Creation

Are any of these movements new to you? Any that you would like to learn more about?

How could understanding the big picture of the Bible help you with some of the hard to understand Bible passages?

If the Bible is about God's covenant (promise) to humanity, what does that tell us about God?

### **Session 4 | Tools for Bible Study**

Three questions to ask yourself when you read the Bible:

1. What does it say?
2. What does it mean?
3. What does it mean to me?

Let's do an exercise and try this.

Go and read John 3:1-21. This contains a very famous verse, but let's see what happens when you read this through inductive Bible study.

What does it say?

What kind of writing is this?

Do you see any repetition, numbers, key biblical words used?

When does this happen?

Who is speaking?

What is the main point of what is said?

What does it mean?

What is the significance of what you observed from the first question?

Do you see any historical or cultural background that might be important?

Why do you think John is telling us about this?

Are there any other Scripture passages that come to mind when you read this?

What does it mean to me?

Put yourself in the story.

What would you be feeling or experiencing in this conversation?

What does this teach you about God or about yourself?

Does this address any behaviors, mindset, or relationships in your life?

[Here's a great resource to learn more about inductive Bible study.](#)

## Session 5 | Pro Tips

### Review the Eight Pro Tips to Reading the Bible

1. Read the Bible with the big picture in mind.
2. Read the Bible using three questions of inductive Bible study.
3. Read a translation of the Bible you can understand.
4. Read a study Bible such as the NIV Study Bible.
5. Read the Bible consistently.
6. Read the Bible starting in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).
7. Read the Bible with a plan.
8. Read the Bible and pray.

### Which of these 8 tips do you need to use in your life?

One of the most helpful ways to read the Bible is with a plan. [Check out the Bible Project Bible Project Plans](#). Which of these plans would you like to start? If you are up for it, reading the Bible in a year is a great plan to follow.

As we conclude this study, what is something you have learned or will incorporate into your life?