

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Week #1 – Adult Bible Study – 2025 & 2026

Discovering the Bible

September 9 & 10, 2025

Welcome & General Logistics

- Prayer
- Ground Rules
 - a. Time LCGBS 10:00 – 11:00
 - b. Time MBS 6:30 – 7:30
 - c. Time WBS 9:15-10:00, 10:00-10:15, 10:15-11:00
 - d. Covenants of Listening, Presence
 - e. Group Norms
 - f. Goal: Learn content of Bible in order to grow in discipleship to Jesus

Introduction to Study

1. This Year: An overview of the Whole Bible
2. Primary Text: the Bible
3. Primary Resource Text: Kerygma: Discovering the Bible – A New Generation
 - a. If you want this book, order at <https://kerygma.com/collections/fndl/products/discover-bible-new-gen>
4. Schedule:
 - a. Includes most important scriptures
 - b. Please note chapter headings – they are key to understanding the flow of the study and essential elements of the overall message of the Bible
5. Notes from Teachers
 - a. Provided every week
 - b. Will include most important Bible texts (ideally to be read prior to class, but don't stay away simply because you haven't done the reading)

The Search

6. “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I go from your presence? Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.” (Psalm 139:1, 7, 23)
7. Bible study is about paying attention to the God who has been trying to get our attention, and who ultimately has come to be with us in Jesus Christ
8. God seeks us even while we also seek God
9. Key Terms:
 - a. Bible – means “books”
 - b. Kingdom of Heaven – the reign or rule of God
 - c. Sheol – depths of the earth and/or gloomy underworld of departed spirits
 - d. Testament – from Latin *testamentum*, a will, agreement, or covenant
10. Key Passages: Who is seeking and who is being found in these?
 - a. Psalm 139:1-24 – Search Me, O God (1-3, 23-24)
 - b. Isaiah 55:1-13 – Seek the Lord (6-7)
 - c. Matthew 13:44-45 – Hidden Treasure (44-45)
 - d. Luke 11:1-13 – Ask, Seek, Knock (9-11)
 - e. Acts 17:22-28 – All Seek God (26-27)
11. Key Questions to Ask and Answers to Find when studying any scripture
 - a. Who wrote it and to whom was it written?
 - b. Where was it written?
 - c. When was it written?
 - d. What is the essential message?
 - e. All of the above are about *context*: the answers shape our understanding of the message
 - f. What, then, does this passage mean *for today* and *for my own discipleship to Jesus*?

The Scriptures

12. “They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’” (Luke 24:32)
13. In the Bible, the term “scriptures” always refers to the books of the Old Testament, because, as yet, there *was* no “New” Testament.
14. The Scriptures in Jesus’ day were collections of sacred writings, an authoritative and agreed upon list of which was accepted about 90 years after Jesus’ birth. In Jesus’ time, the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms were agreed upon as sacred.
15. The term itself simply means “sacred writings”
16. Following Jesus’ day, the church would gradually come to an understanding of what constituted the “new” sacred writings
17. Key Terms:
 - a. Law – the Pentateuch (Greek word for 5 Scrolls) or Torah (Hebrew for Law) – the first 5 books of the Bible (Genesis to Deuteronomy)
 - b. History – the story of Israel as a nation (Joshua to Esther)
 - c. Poetry & Wisdom or Writings (Job to Song of Songs)
 - d. Prophets (Major & Minor) – with major being the longer ones, and minor being the shorter ones. (Isaiah to Malachi)
 - e. Scrolls – ancient books consisted of writing on long strips of either papyrus or parchment. Longer books required two scrolls, hence “first” or “second” Kings, Chronicles, etc.
18. Key Passages:
 - a. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – The Great Commandment (4-9)
 - b. I Samuel 16:1-13 – Samuel Anoints David (11-13)
 - c. Job 28:12-28 – Wisdom is Praised (12, 23, 28)
 - d. Isaiah 6:1-13 – The Call of Isaiah (8)
19. The Protestant Bible
 - a. Comprised of 66 books
 - b. 39 books of OT cover nearly 2000 years
 - c. 27 books of NT cover less than 200 years

Questions for Your Life Today

- A. What does it mean to you that God has been “seeking” you even more than you have been seeking God?
- B. In what ways has God spoken to you through the Bible?
- C. What value do you see in achieving a level of understanding of the Bible as a whole?
- D. What challenges do you see to approaching Bible study in this way?

Notes by The Rev. Dr. Jack Baca, Senior Pastor, The Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe, California

Primary Source: Discovering the Bible: A New Generation, published by The Kerygma Program, Pittsburgh, PA. Boyd Lien, author.