

Intro To The Bible Lesson 3: Never Read a Bible Verse a brief introduction on how to read the Bible

“What is the single most important practical skill I’ve ever learned as a Christian? Here it is: Never read a Bible verse. That’s right. Never read a Bible verse. Instead, always read a paragraph at least.” – Greg Koukl

→ Never read a bible verse

Okay...obviously an exaggeration, but the point remains. It is a memorable way of reminding us of the caution of reading a verse in isolation from the context.

Doesn't the New Testament quote the Old Testament?

- When the NT quotes the OT, it was understood that it pointed to a larger section of Scripture from which the verse was taken.
- The audience was probably aware of the context a verse was quoted from.

Illustration from a story: ***“You were right. You were right about me. Tell your sister, you were right.”***

Within the larger storyline, this scene and line make sense. But without the full story, it doesn't make much sense on its own.

→ Every Bible verse is part of a Bigger Story.

- Unlike our local libraries, the Bible's library is an epic story spanning different time periods, generations, plot twists, and characters.

→ Jesus has a backstory called the Old Testament

- Jesus doesn't just randomly show up.
- He comes from a family, a tribe, a nation; there is a lineage—there's traces of him all the way back to the Book of Genesis (Gen 3:15).
- There's an entire backstory called the Old Testament.

→ We need the OT to understand the New

- The OT was written to a specific group of people in specific time periods.
- Many of the OT laws no longer *directly* apply to us because they were made under an “old covenant”—an agreement that outlined (and made sense) how certain people related to God at that time.
- Christians are under a “new covenant.” But we need the OT to help us understand the full story because it points us to the significance of Jesus.
- Without the knowledge of the OT, we miss the breadth and depth of the NT.

The Storyline or metanarrative of the Bible

“metanarrative” = an overarching storyline that gives context, meaning, and purpose to all of life.

“Culture shapes language. Language shapes culture. And stories have the power to redefine or create new language. Our words have meaning because of the stories in which they are used. And we understand our words from the story we find ourselves in.” -Jeff Vanderstelt.

The Big Story of the Bible is what informs the story of Jesus and the gospel.

3 Movements

Creation
Covenant
Consummation

4 Movements

Creation
Fall
Rescue
New Creation

6 Movements

God creates
Humans rebel
Redemption initiated
Redemption provided
Mission to all nations
Redemption complete

CREATION

“In the beginning God”
Triune community (Father, Son, Spirit)
God speaks
Order
Image of God
Human dignity & worth
Relationality
Eden: sacred space
Divine presence
Stewardship mandate
Harmony & shalom; peace
“Very good”

FALL

Freedom & choice
The Serpent
Usurp God's rule
Defining good & evil
Rebellion
Fractured relationships
Sin enters
Death & exile
Violence & corruption
Flood & restart
Babel & pride

Scattered nations

Loss of presence
Promise of a crusher

RESCUE

Covenant with Abraham
Blessing to the nations
Israel chosen
Exodus & deliverance
Sinai covenant
Law & holiness
Promised land
Kings & failure
Division & exile
Prophetic hope
Awaited Messiah

Intermission: 400 years of silence

Jesus Rescue

Immanuel (“God with us”)
Son of David
Messiah / Christ
Kingdom announced
Servant King

Teaching & healing

Crucifixion
Sin-bearing death
Resurrection victory
Defeat of evil
Ascension & reign
Spirit indwelling
Church birthed
Multiethnic family
Mission to the nations
Forgiveness & new life
Living temple
Witness & discipleship

NEW CREATION

Return of the King
Final restoration
Garden-city
All things made new
No more death, sorrow
God with his people
Eternal life
Completed redemption
Shalom restored

RESOURCE



The Story App

Gospel Sharing Made Easy

The Story explains the gospel from the 10,000-foot view through four simple points: Creation, The Fall, Rescue, and Restoration.

<https://spreadtruth.com/the-story-app/>