

Intro To The Bible Lesson 4: All the Bible Points to Jesus *a brief introduction on how to read the Bible*

Four principles to keep in mind:

- The Bible is a Library, not a book (different genres, styles, tones)
- The Bible is written for us, but not to us (enter the world of the original audience))
- Never read a Bible verse (there's context and story behind every verse)
- All the Bible points to Jesus (the Story revolves around Jesus)

from Dan Kimball

A Jesus story: Read Luke 24:13-35

Focus on verse 27... **What do you think Jesus means in this verse?**

What Old Testament passages might Jesus have explained?

Does this mean every single verse points to Jesus?

- No, this doesn't mean we should read every verse and make an allegorical connection to Jesus, trying to find Jesus in all the details.

→ The point is that the overall Story points to Jesus.

- When we read the Old Testament, we should keep this in mind. The goal of the OT, or sometimes referred in shorthand as the "Law and the Prophets," was to produce a just and worshipping society.
- Jesus and his kingdom is where that project finds its fulfillment.
- The new society formed around Jesus was what the Law and the Prophets were aiming for all along.

Another Jesus story: read Mark 9:2-13

How does "listen to my Son" redefine the authority of the Law and the Prophets?

And one more Jesus story: read John 5:39-47

 **The Story of the Scriptures points to the story of Jesus!**

The Story of Jesus helps us see the Bible and history too!

- 1) God has entered into history through the _____ of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 2) As a human being, Jesus preached the reign of _____ died a horrendous death, and was _____ from the dead by God.
- 3) In Jesus, we now have a _____ to history; a lens through which we see.

The story of Jesus has two aspects:

- 4) The story _____ Jesus and the story _____ Jesus.

The story about Jesus is the story of one man who incarnated God's presence through his life of service, teaching, healing, death, and resurrection... through this work, the world is brought to reconciliation with God and new life.

- 5) Embracing the gospel means accepting this one man, despite the fact that he was a _____ man who lived 2,000 years ago.

- 6) The gospel of Jesus, the promise of good news continues. It is because of this second meaning of the gospel story that the story is not _____.

- 7) While the story does not know exactly *how* history will end, it knows where it is going: _____.

Questions

1. How does seeing Jesus as the center of Scripture change the way we understand God's character?
2. How does this idea shape the way we read difficult or obscure passages?
3. Reference the four principles above: How do all four of these principles work together?
4. If someone new to faith asked you, "How should I read the Bible?" — what would you say after this lesson?

Answer key: 1) incarnation; 2) God; raised; 3) clue; 4) about; of; 5) Jewish; 6) complete; 7) new creation