

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE AS ONE STORY IN ITS ANCIENT EASTERN CONTEXT

Students will discover how the many books of the Bible form one big story. They will learn the importance of reading and interpreting this story through the “lens” of its original ancient Near Eastern context. Students will develop an understanding of ancient Near Eastern geography, literary devices, and customs in order to unlock new layers of meaning in the story. Students will learn like ancient Jewish disciples, by asking questions of their teacher and one another and by processing what they learn together. Students will also reflect individually on what God is teaching to them and how they should respond.

WEEK 1 Israel's Location

What was the geographical and spiritual significance of the land called Israel?

- Acts 17:24-27
- Genesis 12:1
- Mathew 28:18:18
- Reflection: *Who is God bringing to me?*

WEEK 2 Israel's Name

What was the significance of Israel's name?

- Exodus 3:1-6
- Acts 3:11-16
- Genesis 32:22-32; 25:19-26
- Reflection: *What is my name?*

WEEK 3 Ancient Eastern Glasses

How Ancient Eastern eyes saw the bible differently than our Modern Western eyes do.

- Reflection: *Would I love the bible more if I understood it more easily?*

WEEK 4 Genesis - Exodus The creation of the world through the Exodus.

- Genesis 1:1-2; 3; 6; 10:32; 11; 12; 22; 23; 46:26-70
- Exodus 1; 12:31-42; 14
- Visual Guide Textbook pp. 8-19, 22-23, 26-27, 30-31, 32-41
- Reflection: *What am I waiting for God to provide?*

WEEK 5 Exodus-Deuteronomy

Water and manna through the second law.

- Exodus 19:1-8; 25:1-9; 40
- Hosea 2
- Numbers 2; 14:26-35
- Visual Guide Textbook pp. 42-45
- Reflection: *What Egypt is God getting out of me?*

WEEK 6 Joshua-Ruth

From crossing the Jordan to Ruth's marriage to Boaz.

- Joshua 1-1-6; 8:30-35; 23:1-6; 13-15
- Ruth 4:13-17
- Visual Guide Textbook pp. 52-61, 64-67, 70-75
- Reflection: *What is God asking me to say “yes” to?*

WEEK 7 1&2 Samuel

The calling of Samuel to the reign of David.

- 1 Samuel 3-4; 5:2-8; 8:10-22; 9-10; 6-17
- Visual Guide Textbook pp. 76-87, 90-91, 94-95, 98-99
- Reflection: *How do I carry God like a vapor?*

WEEK 8 1&2 Kings

From Solomon's reign to a kingdom divided and exiled.

- 1 Kings 4:20-28; 6:37-38; 7:1; 11:3-5; 9-13; 11:41-43; 12:1-11; 12:25-27; 14:30; 17:1-6
- 2 Kings 25:1-7; 8:12
- Genesis 15
- Jeremiah 25:1-14
- Visual Guide Textbook pp. 100-107, 112-117, 120-127
- Reflection: *Who's house have I spent more time building?*

WEEK 9 Ezra-Malachi
The Northern and Southern kingdoms in exile.
•Ezra 1:1-11; 2:68-70; 3:1-3; 4:1-3; 4:4-5; 5:1-2; 6:14-15
•Zechariah 2:5
•Ezra 7:1-28
•Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-6; 8:1-10
•*Reflection: What is my name?*

WEEK 10 Between The Testaments
Important cultural, political, and religious changes of the Intertestamental Period.
•*Reflection: What about American culture makes it easy or difficult for me to follow Jesus?*

WEEK 11 Jesus The Jewish Rabbi
Jesus' birth to first sermon in Nazareth.
•Luke 2:1-4; 21-24; 41-52; 4:1-30
•Visual Guide Textbook pp. 160-187
•*Reflection: Where is my allegiance and how does that affect how I treat others and God?*

WEEK 12 Jesus The New Moses
The Sermon on the Mount and the miracles of Jesus.
•Matthew 4:23-9:36
•*Reflection: Is the message or the miracle more important to me?*

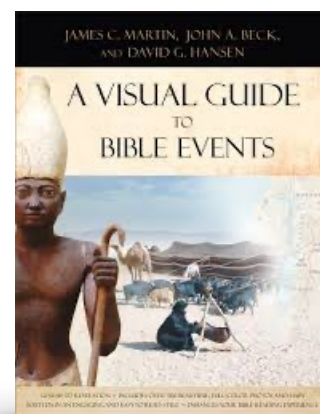
WEEK 13 Jesus' Parables
Understanding the parables of Jesus and his mission.
•Matthew 4:23-9:36
•*Reflection: Is the kingdom of God as important to me as it is to Jesus?*

WEEK 14 Jesus The King
From Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the Great Commission.
•Matthew 26-28
•Mark 14-16
•Luke 19:28-24:53
•Visual Guide Textbook pp. 194-211
•*Reflection: Who can I tell?*

WEEK 15 The Church
From Pentecost to the ends of the earth.
•Acts 2; 3; 8:4-25; 9:1-31; 10; 15:1-35
•Galatians 2:10
•2 Corinthians 8-9
•Ephesians 2:1-10
•Visual Guide Textbook pp. 212-219, 224-227, 230-231, 240-241, 242-243
•*Reflection: Where am I taking the Good News?*

WEEK 16 Heaven & Earth
A return to the Garden - heaven comes to earth.
•Revelation 21-22
•*Reflection: Where do I see God's will already being done on earth today and how can I join in?*

Student Textbook:
Martin, James C. and Becky, John A. and Hansen, David G., A Visual Guide To Bible Events. Baker Books, 2009.



Students will discover important themes, symbols, idioms, customs, remazim, and Hebrew words that unlock more meaning in the Bible's one big story.

THEMES

The story of scripture is held together by numerous themes introduced first in Genesis and then developed throughout. These “threads” will be pointed out as they appear and reappear throughout our study. (Eg. Sabbath, Temple, Heaven & Earth, Messiah, Holiness, Covenant, Kingdom of God, Image of God, Sacrifice & Atonement, Justice, Exile)

SYMBOLS

Symbols are very important in Ancient Eastern storytelling. The meaning of these reoccurring symbols will be explored as they appear throughout our study. (Eg. water, serpent, bread, 40, 7, 12)

IDIOMS

What does Jesus mean when he says we're to have “a good eye” in Matthew 6:22,23? Or what did Jesus mean when he said he didn't come to “abolish the law” but to “fulfill the law” in Matthew 5:17? Understanding Hebrew idioms will shed more and better light on key parts of the biblical story.

CUSTOMS

When we understand the marriage customs of the ancient Near East suddenly the Ten Commandments become wedding rings when God married the Hebrews! The grave consequences of breaking an ancient contract explain why God, and not Abraham, walked through the blood when their covenant was “cut.” These customs and more form the backdrop for so much of the bible's action.

REMAZIM

“Remez” means “hint.” Rabbis in Jesus' day would cite a short portion from the Hebrew scriptures while teaching. Their Jewish audience, having memorized the first five books of scripture and the Psalms, would be able to recall the entire portion of scripture being hinted at. When we come across remazim in Jesus' teaching, we will search out the larger portion of the Hebrew scriptures he was hinting at to unlock the greater meaning. (Eg. Matthew 27:46 is a remez to Psalm 22:1)

HEBREW WORDS

We'll begin our time together each day by reciting a prayer called the shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), just as Jesus would have done every day. We'll do this in English and, eventually, in Hebrew. We'll also pick up a small number of important Hebrew words like shema (hear/obey), shalom (peace), halakhah (law or way), and yeshivah (learning in community), mishpat (justice), and tzedekah (righteousness).