

Week 1 - The Bible

This season, we are going to learn about different characters in the Bible. Some of the people or stories might be familiar to you and some of them might be new. But before we jump into that, it is important that we realize the Bible is not just a book about stories. Sure, there are characters and events that might seem a little bit crazy, but the truly amazing thing is that these things all actually happened!

The Bible is called the Word of God. The Bible is God's revelation to us about who He is. God reveals who He is through magnificent events and broken people. When everyone else seems insignificant, God shows how mighty and perfect He is. *The purpose of the Bible is to glorify God and show us what He has done to give us the opportunity to know Him personally.*

The Bible is completely true. Most of the Bible is a *history account* of how God is patient and loving to a rebellious people called the Israelites. God makes promises and keeps them. He protects and cares for His chosen people. There are many different people who have their stories told in the Bible, but it is important that we don't forget the grand narrative of God glorifying Himself.

The Bible is not just a rule book and it is not just stories thrown together to teach good morals. When we read about the Law that God gave to the Israelites or about a person who showed great character, we can learn from those things, but we can't stop there. If we only look at the details or only choose to think about the Bible in pieces, we miss the big picture. We need to understand the full story because the Bible *is* a full story.

The Bible starts with the account of how God created the world and everything in it. Everything was good until man chose to rebel against God and was separated from the relationship with God that he was supposed to have. This brought a huge problem called sin, but throughout a history of about 4,000 years, the Bible shows how God made it possible to solve this problem that only He could fix. It shows how everyone who has ever lived needs this solution and how we can again have a personal relationship with God.

As we talk this season about people in the Bible who play a part in this grand salvation story of Jesus Christ, we will make sure to look at the big picture of what God is doing and how it affects us even today.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the purpose of the Bible?
- Why is it important to think of the Bible as a whole?
- Why can we trust that the Bible is true?