

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: What is the Bible to you?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

Facilitator: prior to beginning this video, consider asking the audience “What is the Bible to you?” Take a few minutes. Have the audience meditate on the question (Josh 1.8; Ps 1.2; 119.97-99). Or, do this the week before you come together for this topic.

1. At some level, the bible is described as
  - a. a collection of writings...
  - b. ...by men of God...who were inspired. What does ‘inspired’ mean to you? (2 Pet 1.20,21).
  - c. ...the revealed will of God... What does this mean to you? (Deut 29.29; Ro 1.16,17,18; Gal 3.23ff; Eph 3.4ff; 1 Pet 1.10-12)
2. At another level, the bible is described as ‘the sole authority’ for how to please God. (2 Cor 5.9,10; 1 Thess 4.1; Heb 13.15, 16; 1 Jo 3.21,22) What does ‘sole authority’ mean to you?
  - a. How does using the term ‘bible’ in other contexts of life attribute authority to those books? For example, this is the bible of Italian cuisine or of vehicle repair.
  - b. So then, using the term ‘bible’, as in ‘The Bible’, denotes that which is The Source of authority for spiritual matters. What do you think about that?
3. At yet another level, the bible is a very personal story for me. Not just ‘to me’, but ‘for me’. What do you think about that?
  - a. the bible is the story of the Creator’s interaction with mankind, His creation - me.
  - b. It is the story of God loving me.
  - c. It is the story from God informing me that I am a sinner. (Ro 3.23).
  - d. That I need saving.
  - e. It is The Story of God’s plan to purpose Jesus Christ upon the cross to make “my saving” possible. (Ro 1.16,17; 3.24-26)
  - f. Of a purpose that was planned – The Lamb slain – before the creation (Rev 13.8).
  - g. It is a personal story about me and how I interact with Creator God and the slain Lamb.

- h. It is personal because it tells me the source of my life. (Gen 1; Jo 11.25,26; 1 Jo 5.12))
  - i. It is personal because it tells me the meaning of my life. (Is 64.8; Eph 2.10)
  - j. It is personal because it tells me where I came from. (Gen 1)
  - k. It is personal because it tells me why I am here. (Eph 2.10; Phil 2.12-16).
  - l. It is personal because it tells me where I am going. (Matt 25, Dan 12.1-3).
  - m. It is personal because it tells me how and why to make sense of my life and the world around me. (Luke 15).
4. What does the Bible mean to you? What do you believe? (2 Tim 3.14-17).