

WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT SCRIPTURE?



Church-Wide Journey Description

READ OR WATCH IT FIRST

This PDF will make most sense if you have already read *What's So Amazing About Scripture?* the book or watched some or all of the 30 videos based on it in *The Video Journey*.

As you do, you will see for yourself how thoroughly this journey:

- galvanizes beginners who are perplexed by the Bible.
- helps skeptics who deny the Bible's truthfulness or inspiration.
- helps doubters who have deep worries or questions about the Bible
- deepens long-time believers who long to go deeper into their understanding and use of the Bible.
- equips an entire faith community to engage with Scripture.
- elevates the Bible much closer to the centre of faith and discipleship. (Obviously Jesus still holds central place.)

CHOOSING BETWEEN THE SMALLS GROUPS (ONLY) JOURNEY AND THIS ONE , THAT INCLUDES SUNDAY MESSAGES

The journey described in this document, though involving small groups, is not to be confused with merely rolling out the “What’s So Amazing About Scripture? Video Journey” across all small groups in a church. That way of doing it is found [here](#).

Although that is also, by nature, a journey for the whole church, what makes this one distinctive and truly church-wide is that it also includes Sunday sermon content, as will soon be evident.

In brief, if you only want to take your church’s small groups through the journey for eight or so weeks, and do something completely different in your Sunday messages then select that option. But if you want to make “a much bigger meal” by threading Sunday Messages into the five-to-six week journey, then select this option. The additional advantages of doing so include:

- A deeper reception of the content by the church as they hear their leader(s) teaching some of the content too, and as they do not need to change focus by hearing completely unrelated sermon content.
- The preacher’s relief of being able to piggy back on and adapt already prepared sermon content for several weeks.
- The possibility of driving greater not only small group attendance ut Sunday attendance too.

SOME BACKGROUND: WHY THIS FORMAT

I have given the largest chunk of my adult life to figuring out how to spiritually grow people and numerically grow a church, and also had the thrill of seeing some things work really well as I witnessed 100s becoming 1000s.

One approach or strategy I discovered along the way is the people-growing, church-unifying and church-galvanizing potential that comes with creating five-to-six week long church-wide “journeys” into a biblical subject of pivotal importance, the contents of which spans across three platforms:

- 1) the Sunday messages,
- 2) small group videos and discussions, and
- 3) personal devotional studies available to all congregants.

I also discovered that churches registered highest engagement and growth levels when these journeys:

- 4) use excellently prepared content,
- 5) where each step of the journey builds upon what went before it, with little duplication all along the way. (For instance, what you read or watch in your devotions is different to the video you watch in your small group is different to the sermon you here.)

In these church-wide journeys, I also discovered the value of:

- 6) beautiful branding elements,
- 7) video adverts to excite the church beforehand, and
- 8) creating content that especially edifies believers, but *also engages not-yet believers*, so that people can invite their friends and family, thereby growing not only existing people in the church but reaching new people.

Finally I discovered:

- 9) how time-consuming and difficult it is to create these journeys, which is why (after doing so for my previous church for close on a decade) I have sought to create plug-and-play resources for churches, like this one...

THE CONTENT COVERED

Basically, every week, for five weeks, church members will be asked to:

- Not miss the Sunday meeting and message.
- Do two devotions (using online videos and their Participants Guide) any time before the midweek small group meeting.

- Not miss their small group meeting, where they will share what they learnt in their own devotions as well as watch and discuss a video.
- Do one more devotion (using the online videos and their Participants Guide) before the next Sunday meeting.

As for the content, this is the journey pathway:

Run-up Sunday Video Ads

3 weeks to go—God’s Truth in the midst of Fake News

2 weeks to go—The Second Most Important Book

1 week to go—This Journey as Spiritual Driver’s License

WEEK ONE

Sunday Message Script Topics

1. The Bible’s Impact. Discover the ways the Bible has changed the world and has the power to change yours.
2. Metaphors for the Bible. Awaken your passion for Scripture by surveying the picture-filled promises God’s Word makes about itself.

Monday to Wednesday Video Topics and Devo Study Guide

3. The Divine Book. Fathom how God breathed out the words of Scripture and how this explains its power and authority.
4. The Human Book. Don’t make the mistake so many make: bleaching out the human elements in your understanding of Scripture.

Midweek Small Group Video Topic and Group Guide

5. God’s Self-revelation Part 1. Find out how God has revealed some of himself to all people, and the surprising ways he comes much closer still.

Thursday to Saturday Video Topic and Devo Study Guide

6. God’s Self-revelation Part 2. Recognize that Scripture is not the result of humanity reaching up to God in curiosity, but God reaching down to us in grace.

WEEK TWO

Sunday Message Script Topics

7. The Bible Jesus Read Part 1. Comprehend the first five stages in the remarkable, winding seven-stage story that the Old Testament tells.
8. The Bible Jesus Read Part 2. Grasp the disruptive historical events that the complicated second half of the Old Testament weaves itself into.

Monday to Wednesday Video Topics and Devo Study Guide

9. Jesus and the First Church. Find out how the Bible reaches its highpoint in the Gospels, as well as the first five stages in the story of the New Testament.
10. Paul's Mission and Letters. Make sense of the man who blazed a trail by foot and by ink that marks the world to this day.

Midweek Small Group Video Topic and Group Guide

11. The Final Letters and the Canon. Get wise to the final stage in the New Testament story, and the centuries-long recognition of its 27 books as inspired.

Thursday to Saturday Video Topic and Devo Study Guide

12. Copyists, Collectors, Text-Critics and Translators. Steep yourself in gratitude to the generations of people who make the Bible in your hands a possibility.

WEEK THREE

Sunday Message Script Topics

13. Find the Ancient Meaning. Learn the first question to ask of any passage in the Bible.
14. The Kinds of Genre. Detect the Bible's ancient genres—after all, you wouldn't read suspense, adventure, romance or science fiction in the same way.

Monday to Wednesday Video Topics and Devo Study Guide

15. The Author's Intent. Get wise to why reading a text outside of its context may land you up being a con.
16. The Timeless Message. Use these seven digging tools to mine out what God might be saying to you in any and every biblical passage.

Midweek Small Group Video Topic and Group Guide

17. Clean your Lenses. Learn three ways to read your culture through the lens of Scripture, not Scripture through the lens of your culture.

Thursday to Saturday Topic and Devo Study Guide

18. A Trustworthy Book. Think over why the Bible is trustworthy and what it means that it is true.

WEEK FOUR

Sunday Message Script Topics

19. A Truthful Book. Think carefully, before declaring the Bible is “without error”, what you don’t mean by that.

20. Doubt your Doubts. Grapple with the four things in the Bible that make many doubt it’s really God’s book—genocide, slavery, sexuality and miracles.

Monday to Wednesday Video Topics and Devo Study Guide

21. Consider How You Listen. Become receptive—as powerful as the “seed” of Scripture may be, it’s effect in your life depends on your soil’s quality.

22. Listen to It Read and Preached. Have an aha moment to the power of hearing the Bible’s words read and preached as you sit side by side with others.

Midweek Small Group Video and Discussion Topic

23. Read It and Study It Part 1. Absorb what you most need to know about reading the whole Bible and studying its parts.

Thursday to Saturday Video Topic and Devo Study Guide

24. Read It and Study It Part 2. Pick up four more tips to get to the bottom of what Scripture is saying.

WEEK FIVE

Sunday Message Script Topics

25. Memorize and Reflect On It. Go beyond the analysis of Scripture—learn the two most important ways to let its roots go deeper into your heart.

26. Experience It. Be coached into some ways to plunge your heart into Scripture—by praying, singing, journalling and imagining it.

Monday to Wednesday Video Topics and Devo Study Guide

27. Pass The Baton. Learn why and how, even if you don't have children, to pass a love for Scripture to the next generation.
28. The Spirit and the Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes, to ignite a flame in your heart and to redirect your life on the paths of a transformed life.

Midweek Small Group Video Topic and Group Guide

29. Glimpses of the King. Discover how every page whispers Jesus' name and how all the main themes, like bicycle spokes, converge on him as the axle.

Thursday to Saturday Video Topic and Devo Study Guide

30. Spread the Word. Too good to keep something like this to ourselves, find ways to share it with those who are near and dear, far and wide.

(Optional) Sixth Sunday Message Script Topic

Elevating Scripture Together (Nehemiah 8)

WHAT IS INCLUDED

What the church leader will get

Upon purchasing this church-wide journey, the purchaser will be sent an email with:

- a link to a Google drive that includes six sermon scripts, a short ebook about optimally embarking on this series, three video adverts, and design elements for Posters and PowerPoint.
- A link for small group leaders to another Google drive.

What small group leaders will get

Upon receiving the Google drive link from the church leader(s), each small group leader will have access to:

- A Group Guide
- Five videos, one per session

What every congregant will get

Upon receiving the unique, limited-number code from the church leader(s) each person in the church will be able to access on www.terranwilliams.com to:

- A Participants Guide
- A visual step-by-step depiction of the entire journey, including 15 videos to watch on their own, as sampled in this screen shot:

Week 1: Sunday Message

The Bible's Impact. Discover the ways the Bible is to change the world and has the power to change yours.

Metaphors for the Bible. Double your passion for Scripture by learning the author's intent. Discover God's Word makes about itself.

Only with the Bible came the idea that every human being is — *without gradations* — an equally valuable image-bearer, worthy of the same treatment. Only with the Bible came the idea that morality is essentially about considering the well-being of the other, especially the least-advantaged. And so, with the Bible, love and humility began to flourish over brute power for the first time.

Week 1: Monday Personal Devo Video

The Closer Book. Follows how God breathed out the words of Scripture and how this explains its power and authority.

The Bible is a *symphony* in which each human author is a different instrument in the divine orchestra. What is unique about the Bible is that each author was literally and consciously aware of their role in the divine symphony and composed accordingly.

Week 1: Wednesday Personal Devo Video

The Human Book. Don't make the mistake so many make: blamming out the human elements in your understanding of Scripture.

"I've been a collector of misquoted verses. The Bible does more than tell us how the world should be. It tells and shows us how treated and broken the world really is — and in so doing — reveals why we need the very redemption it also speaks of."

Week 1: Small Group Discussion

God's Self-revelation Part 1. Find out how God has revealed some of himself to all people, and the surprising ways he comes with lesser gifts.

The God brought his Son into the world through an ordinary, imperfect young girl in one of the two great mistakes in which divine life merges with humanity — *the miracle of incarnation*. The other is that he brought his Son into the world through ordinary, imperfect authors — *the miracle of inspiration*.

Week 1: Friday Personal Devo Video

God's Self-revelation Part 2. Recognize that Scripture is not the result of humanity reaching up to God in ecstasy, but God reaching down to us in grace.

The authors of Scripture were not intellectual giants, engineering philosophies or spiritual water operating on a higher wavelength who then descended to us as a reward for their diligent research.

ON WHETHER VIDEOS CAN BE USED INSTEAD OF LIVE SCRIPTED PREACHING

- My first encouragement to any church leader(s) is to try preach the content, allowing your people to hear *from you* how important the Bible is.
- If however, you would still rather use the videos, then notice that each Sunday (except the sixth one, if you opt to have a sixth one) involves two videos. You will have to purchase the individual Video Journey (if you have not already) and then stream the specific Vimeo-based videos.

WHAT AMOUNT OF PEOPLE TO PURCHASE FOR

On www.terranwilliams.com as you buy the Church Wide Journey, you will need to select a church-size. Purchase for:

- the amount of people in your church already
- plus the number of new people you hope to attract.

A unique code that lasts one year only, with a limited number of usages, will be generated for your church. (To avoid disappointment, you need to tell your people that their access to the content on the website will last only until a year after the initial purchase date.)

When compared to the individual price of the Video Journey or Book, this bulk-purchase is enormously discounted. From a technological point of view, we cannot sell for an exact number, so we have created round-off numbers. Whatever number you purchase for give that many people access to the online Videos and Devo Studies: (*prices as of January 2021*)

- 25-39 (50% off of \$9.98 per person)
- 40-299 (65% off)
- 300-999 people (70% off)
- 1000-2999 people (75% off)
- 3000-5000 people (80% off)
- Contact us directly for groups larger than 5000 or if your church cannot afford these prices.