# What’s So Amazing About Scripture?

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Book Reflection Questions

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 \* *Click on page numbers, then write in the open boxes*

# Chapter 1: The Bible’s Impact

Remember

The Bible’s historical impact is unparalleled, yet its potential to personally impact is just as great.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

In what ways have you experienced the Bible impacting you personally?

Which of the seven metaphors about the Bible speaks most to you?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

When and where will you find the time and place to go through this journey? Are there other people you can invite to take this journey with you?

If you’re not yet a believer, I suggest you try reading it—start with John’s or Luke’s Gospel. I also suggest you pray this: “God, if you’re real, if this Bible is your book, then as I read give me eyes to see.”

# Chapter 2: The Human-Divine Book

Remember

The Bible is not a mix of God’s words here and human words there. All the words are God’s words spoken through human words.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

In what ways have you experienced the Bible impacting you personally?

Which of the five ways the human side of Scripture enriches the concept of divine inspiration surprises you most?

Which of the four ways of navigating the Bible’s human elements do you need apply in your Bible reading?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

In your journey with the Bible to date, has there been a time when God spoke through it to you a word of judgment and something withered, or promise and faith was born, or forgiveness and sin was absolved, or new life and something came to life?

# Chapter 3: God’s Self-Revelation

Remember

God has revealed himself through creation, but this is not enough revelation to lead us to redemption. For this, he has provided the lights of special revelation, much of which involves Scripture: the Bible records revelation, is a revelation and needs revelation.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

In what ways have you experienced the Bible impacting you personally?

Which of the six lights of God’s special self-revelation has impacted you most?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

When and where will you find the time and place to go through this journey? Are there other people you can invite to take this journey with you?

If you’re not yet a believer, perhaps you want to try reading it—start with John’s or Luke’s Gospel. I also suggest you pray this: “God, if you’re real, if this Bible is your book, then as I read give me eyes to see.”

# Chapter 4: The Bible Jesus Read

Remember

The Bible is not a mix of God’s words here and human words there. All the words are God’s words spoken through human words.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which of the five ways the human side of Scripture enriches the concept of divine inspiration surprises you most?

Which of the four ways of navigating the Bible’s human elements do you need apply in your Bible reading?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

In your journey with the Bible to date, has there been a time when God spoke through it to you a word of judgment and something withered, or promise and faith was born, or forgiveness and sin was absolved, or new life and something came to life? Perhaps, as you do, yield your life anew to be the soil in which his Word can be sown.

# Chapter 5: The Story of the New Testament

Remember

God has revealed himself through creation, but this is not enough revelation to lead us to redemption. For this, he has provided the lights of special revelation, much of which involves Scripture: the Bible records revelation, is a revelation and needs revelation.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Paul was uniquely poised for his missionary and theological contribution because he lived in five worlds. Which of these five worlds most fascinates you?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

The next time your life is difficult or your faith creates additional challenges for you, go back to stage 7 of the New Testament, and let the faith and endurance of those long past give rise to greater endurance and faith in you.

# Chapter 6: Copyists, Canon, Critics, Translators

Remember

By the time of Jesus, the canon of the Hebrew Bible was already in place. As for the New Testament canon, God chose its contents, while the church patiently recognized God’s choice of Scripture.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Have you expressed sufficient gratitude to God for the 1000s of copyists, canon recognizers, collectors, textual critics and translators whom God called to make it possible for us to have our Bible?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Will you change or continue your present translation of choice? Why or why not?

# Chapter 7: The Author’s Intended Meaning

Remember

Only once we discover the ancient meaning to people in their situation can we begin to discern the timeless message, which we can then re-apply for ourselves in our very different situation.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Can you remember taking a passage out of context? Perhaps take some time to reflect on how your underlying belief and worldview made you more susceptible to do this.

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Start practicing Gordon Fee’s advice as you read the Bible:“The most important contextual question you will ever ask—and it must be asked over and over of every sentence and every paragraph—is, ‘What’s the point?’”

# Chapter 8: The Timeless Message

Remember

Before laying a command upon all believers and churches, we must be especially sure it is God’s Word for all people at all times.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which two or three of the eight principles for drawing out a passage’s timeless truth have you most neglected in your previous Bible reading?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Let the final question in your reading and study be, “Is there some wisdom to learn, instruction to obey, example to follow, warning to heed, principle to apply, promise to believe or doctrine to grasp?”

# Chapter 9: Clean Your Lenses

Remember

We dangerously tend to read the Scriptures through the lens of our culture and assumptions, rather than read our culture and assumptions through the lens of Scripture.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which of the list of seven commonly misquoted passages may you have been guilty of, and how might you study the context for a better understanding?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Since understanding Scripture correctly is essentially about understanding God’s heart correctly, why not ask him to share more of his heart with you for the abused, overlooked and downtrodden? Perhaps, write your prayer here:

# Chapter 10: True and Trustworthy

Remember

The so-called ‘contradictions’ in the Gospels do not undermine their historical credibility as much as they support it—it shows independent affirmations of the story with no forced collusion.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

We said that Jesus, the Bible itself, our personal experience of the Bible’s power and the Spirit witness that Scripture is true and trustworthy. With regard to the third witness, has the Bible proven itself to be true according to your experience?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Develop greater confidence in the infallibility of God’s Word, even while you develop greater humility due to your (and the church’s) fallible interpretation of it.

# Chapter 11: Doubt your Doubts

Remember

Though many reasons for trusting the Bible can be amassed, thoughtful readers may doubt its truthfulness because of certain aspects of its teaching.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which of the four doubt-creating questions have you or someone you know struggled with most?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Doubt your doubts about the Bible’s truthfulness.

# Chapter 12: Consider How You Listen

Remember

*What* God says through his Word is not the only important thing—*how* we come to it is just as important. God’s Word itself is a good seed, but it needs a receptive heart to produce a harvest.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which aspect of a receptive heart do you most need to cultivate when you engage Scripture? Humility? Hunger and thirst? Yieldedness? Expectancy?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Ponder Jesus’ words and pray them over your own life: “The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

# Chapter 13: Hear, Read and Study The Bible

Remember

To grow spiritually, every week, sit under the reading and preaching of God’s Word, along with a community created, sustained and guided by that Word. Also read it on your own, and study it on your own and with others.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

What is your current habit concerning personal, daily Bible-reading and regular Bible-study? Is there an obstacle you need to overcome to improve this?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Which of the many guidelines in reading and studying Scripture well do you want to give special attention to?

# Chapter 14: Experience Scripture

Remember

As important as it is to study and analyze the Bible, it is equally important to experience it. This means that we should find ways to let the Bible bypass our analytical approach to things, and let it speak right to our hearts.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which of the many ways to experience Scripture are you most eager to try or grow in—memorizing it, reflecting on it, singing it, praying it, journaling it or imagining it?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

If you don’t have one yet, why not start a Scripture journal? Will you prefer to keep it as an actual book, an accessible document, or as a Journal app (such as *Day One, Diarium, Journey or Penzu*)?

# Chapter 15: The Spirit and the Word

Remember

God’s truth may shine brightly in itself, but apart from the Spirit’s light, we are dull and apathetic to the things of God.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which ministry of the Spirit through the Word are you in most need of at the moment—do you need your eyes opened, your heart burning or your feet moving in a new path of obedience?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

What of the third point can you apply so that you experience Scripture not only as a source of *in*formation but *trans*formation?

# Chapter 16: Glimpses of the King

Remember

Spokes without an axle, light without a screen, a story without a hero, puzzle pieces without a box cover, a map without a destination, and a palace without a king is the reading of the Old Testament without a revelation of Jesus.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Which one or two of the 24 Old Testament themes that converge in Jesus move you most?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

Whenever you read the Bible, first ask, “How does this passage help me to see Jesus?” then, only after that, ask, “How does this passage call me to obey?”

# Chapter 17: Spread the Word

Remember

If the Word of God is a major driving force of God’s saving action in the world, then we do well to give our lives to see God’s whole Word spread out into God’s whole world.

What one thing that interested or helped you do you not want to forget?

Reflect

Who introduced you to God’s Word? What holds you back from bringing more Scripture into your daily conversations and your family life, especially if you have children?

What question(s), if any, do you now have?

Redirect

What one (small or big) way will you engage the Bible, God, your life or the world differently?

What unique opportunities might God be giving you to spread God’s Word?

What person or church might you want to recommend this journey to?

What is your next journey into Scripture?