your journey, I encourage you to be a Berean for the rest of your life! see if what Paul (or anyone else) says about God is true. As you embark on Being a Berean means to examine and study the Scriptures for yourself to

every day to see if what Paul said was true.

received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they

ue—instead be a "Berean." Take a look at Acts 17:11 to see what I mean: give you a cautionary note: don't just take the words in this study at face valof Acts. While I hope this study guide has been helpful to you, let me also But before you continue on, let's learn an important lesson from the book

to facilitate understanding the Bible as you are reading it. read the rest of the Bible. The readings are again in a non-sequential order for answers. The remainder of this guide gives you a plan in which you can this study, you should now feel equipped to be able continue on your quest ence more of that? The good news is that you can! Through the process of during this study? If so, wasn't it exciting and wouldn't you like to experibefore? Have you felt the Holy Spirit "speak" to you and give you insight study. Isn't the Bible an amazing book that you might not have appreciated Wow. Hopefully this is how you are feeling as you finish up the Dig Deeper

Stop and Take a Look Back

continually grow in their walk with Jesus.

Teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded: help them "dig deeper" and forms their life in highly visible and noticeable ways.

Baptize them: soak them in their relationship with Jesus so that it transtionship with Jesus Christ and through the working of the Holy Spirit. <mark>Make disciples:</mark> teach others what God has shown you through your rela-

Another word for go is "leave" as in, leave your comfort zone. Go: actively go out and share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. summarize the big picture of the Great Commission that Jesus gives us: will fill in the details that are specific to our own situation. But here, let's calls for another believer. We must trust (and pray) that the Holy Spirit that God calls for one believer will likely look different from the work He there are many different ways that God's will can be done, and the work question: "What exactly does God want me to do with my life?" Of course, Jesus, but no other passage can compare when it comes to answering the portant in building up many different aspects of the life of a follower of in the entire Bible. Don't misunderstand—the rest of the Bible is very impurpose in life, Matthew 28:16-20 is the most important set of instructions to do with their time left on this planet. In terms of getting guidance on our This is it—the best description of what the followers of Jesus are supposed

The Great Commission

have to God through Him.

orded by John. In this chapter, Jesus explains the relationship that believers John 15: part of Jesus' final instructions to His disciples, which is only recmatter) are not in God's original plan for mankind.

fate of mankind (death), and understanding that death (and disease for that Jesus, understanding the perspective that Jesus had in regard to the ultimate foundational on many levels—understanding the humanity and emotion of death of His friend Lazarus that Jesus weeps at his grave. This passage is deep compassion of Jesus. Here, Jesus is so distraught and moved by the John 11: perhaps the most moving description in the entire Bible about the on the reason why we should become His follower and how to do so. John 3: a profound yet simple and clear explanation that Jesus Himself gave

Week 7: Gospel of John

veiling of God's purpose behind the years of his tribulations. Genesis 45: the exciting conclusion of the account of Joseph, and the unwas sold into slavery by his 10 older half-brothers.

Genesis 37: the account of Joseph, Jacob's eldest son by Rachel and how he that the 12 tribes of Israel (and eventually the whole nation) are descended. brother Esau (with a little help from his mother Rebekah). It is from Jacob

Genesis 27: the account of Jacob stealing the birthright from his twin foundational passages in all of the Bible.

Genesis 12:1-7: the promise God made to Abraham—one of the most

Week 6: Genesis

discouragement, disappointment or defeat in your work for the Kingof Jesus), return to this chapter and re-read it whenever you are facing you have been "employed" by the King (i.e., you have become a follower are to actively "equip" themselves for service in God's Kingdom work. If Ephesians 6:10-18: an essential passage for understanding how believers

these jobs (v. 12) and the reason why God views these jobs as so imty of "jobs" that believers of Jesus do (v. 11), the underlying purpose of Ephesians 4:11-13: this passage is one of the best summaries of the varie-

about what it is that followers of Jesus believe. This is an excellent pas-Ephesians 2:8-9: one of the most compact summaries in all the Bible

Week 5: Ephesians

into the light. would have us do even today. That is, to bring others out of darkness and you reflect back on the book of Acts, for this is a model of what Jesus few sentences. Consider the speech of Paul in chapter 26, verses 17-18, as entire Bible. As such, it is hard to summarize such an amazing book in a Acts 26:17-18: the book of Acts is one of the most exciting to read in the

Week 4: Acts

Luke 22-23: the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus. Jesus to Jerusalem, one week before His death.

skills God has given to us for His Kingdom work); and the coming of a very dramatic illustration emphasizing the importance of using the Luke 19: the story of Zaccheus; the parable of talents (in Luke's account, illustrating the great love that God has for mankind.

Luke 15: three parables (the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son),

Меек 3: Luke

The Dig Deeper reading schedule

to all those that follow Him.

Matthew's Gospel, to learn about the most important command of Jesus by John, one of Jesus' closest disciples. We finish with the last chapter of to the Greek Scriptures to read the stunningly moving account of Jesus archs of the Israelite people: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Then we'll return the Hebrew Scriptures to learn the fascinating background of the patri-Europe. In the middle of the study, we'll revisit the book of Genesis in they shared and spread the "Good News" to people in Africa, Asia and learn about what the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection did and how to discover more and more about our wonderful Savior and God. We will In the Dig Deeper study, we will do just that—dig deeper into the Bible

cal record about the validity of His claim to have conquered sin and selves. Resurrection: to defeat death and leave a testimony in the historipayment for our sin-because we are incapable of paying that debt ourconquering the old kingdom of Death. Death: to die on our behalf in His Life: to come as the Messiah, ushering in a new kingdom of Life and resurrection of Jesus, but also a better idea of the underlying reasons for By now you have a basic understanding not only of the life, death and

More background

instructions are the most important and highest priority task of those Matthew 28: the Great Commission that Jesus gave his followers—these

Day 29: Ephesians 4-6 Matthew 28 Day 49: John 19-21 and Day 28: Ephesians 1-3 Zondervan Bible Publishers. Day 48: John 16-18 Day 27: Acts 25-28 Bible Society. Used by permission of Day 47: John 13-15 Day 26: Acts 21-24 Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Day 46: John 10-12 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Dау 45: John 7-9 Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, Дау 44: Јоћп 4-6 Stulac for his theological review. Dау 43: John 1-3 and many helpful suggestions; and Dr. George Week 7 highlighted text; my wife Debra for reviewing Day 42: Genesis 48-50 reviewing and suggesting the use of Day 41: Genesis 45-47 Acknowledgments: I thank Daniel Tu for Day 40: Genesis 42-44 make this study guide. Dау 39: Genesis 39-41 Dedication: To Osman, who inspired me to Day 38: Genesis 36-38 This work is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 Z£-££ sisэпэЭ :7£ үяД By Shawn D. Handran, 2008, 2009, 2024. Day 36: Genesis 30-32 Меек б men on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14 (bəunitnos) rəqəəd gid Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to

Day 25: Acts 17-20 Day 24: Acts 13-16 Day 23: Acts 9-12 Day 22: Acts 5-8 Week 4 Day 21: Acts 1-4 Day 20: Luke 21-24 Day 19: Luke 17-20 Day 18: Luke 13-16 Day 17: Luke 9-12 Дау 16: Luke 5-8 Day 15: Luke 1-4 Week 3 лэдээд ВіД

Week 5

Day 35: Genesis 27-29

Day 34: Genesis 24-26

Day 33: Genesis 21-23

Day 32: Genesis 18-20

Day 31: Genesis 15-17

Day 30: Genesis 12-14

Day 14: Romans 13-16 Day 13: Romans 9-12 Day 12: Romans 5-8 Day 11: Romans 1-4 Day 10: Genesis 9-11 Day 9: Genesis 6-8 Day 8: Genesis 4-5 Меек 2: Day 7: Genesis 1-3 Day 6: 1 John 4-5 Day 5: 1 John 1-3 Day 4: Mark 13-16 Day 3: Mark 9-12 Day 2: Mark 5-8 Day 1: Mark 1-4 Week 1: The Basics

Reading schedule

Basics of the Bible dig deeper & Next Steps

About this guide

A self-directed reading plan and study guide for people that are new to the Bible and want to learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Introduction

Welcome. This course is designed for the person that wants to learn what it means to become or be a follower of Jesus. Many people that seek this knowledge realize that the Bible is where they must look, but have been hampered in their quest for one reason or another (e.g. intimidated by the size of the Bible, don't know where to begin, tried to read the Bible but couldn't make sense of it, got discouraged, etc.).

This is a self-directed study to assist you in your quest for answers. It is intended to take you rapidly through select books of the Bible to give you a "big picture" overview of what it means to be or become a follower of Jesus, and to become familiarized with the Bible—which is *the* definitive handbook for those who want to follow Jesus. For maximum benefit, plan on spending about 30 minutes every day for the next few weeks.

The course consists of two parts: the first covers the basics and can be completed in two weeks. The second part "digs deeper" into the Bible and takes an additional five weeks of daily reading. This study lays the basic foundation for understanding the Bible and what it means to be a follower

After completing this course, you will be equipped, empowered and excited to continue your study of the Bible!

The non-sequential reading approach

Most people that are new to the Bible approach it like any other book that they read—they start at the beginning and read linearly through to

However, this often leads to frustration because a linear reading approach does not readily facilitate an understanding of the Bible as you are reading it. This course takes a different approach by taking you through books of the Bible in a non-sequential order. As such, this facilitates a greater understanding of the big picture of the Bible as you are reading it—that is, as you progress through the daily reading schedule, you will understand more and more what the Bible is saying.

Dig Deeper

The *Dig Deeper* study continues building on the readings from *The Ba*sics study. Again, the emphasis is on selected books from the Greek Scriptures and you will also finish the book of Genesis from the Hebrew Scrip-

Luke Acts Ephesians Genesis 12-50 Gospel of John Matthew 28

Dig Deeper: Big Picture Summary

Luke: the most detailed account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Noted for numerous historical references and attention to detail. Written by Luke, a Greek physician and co-worker of Paul.

Acts: also written by Luke, which chronicles the work of the first apostles after Jesus gave them His *Great Commission* (see below). The work of many apostles and co-workers are detailed, but particular emphasis is paid to the missionary work of Peter and Paul.

Ephesians: a succinct letter from Paul to the believers in Ephesus explaining the victorious life that we can have as followers of Jesus. Genesis 12-50: detailed account of the Creator God's special relationship with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—the forbearers of the nation of Israel. Gospel of John: like 1st John, an eloquent and profoundly moving account of the life, death and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

Next Steps (abridged)

Congratulations! You now have a basic understanding of the Bible and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. You now should also have more confidence in your ability to read, interpret and understand the Scriptures and feel empowered to continue your study of the Bible. This is exciting because, for the rest of your life, as you continue to read and re-read the Bible, you will likewise continue to gain a deeper and deeper understanding of the Bible and as a result, grow closer and closer in your relationship with Him.

The remainder of the study guide provides you with a proposed reading order to complete the rest of the Bible. Depending on your reading speed and the amount of time you commit each day, you can expect to finish the entire Bible between 3-12 months. The important thing is not how fast you read but what you learn during the process speed reading through the Bible for the sake of finishing it does little good if you miss the message.

Like *The Basics* and *Dig Deeper* lessons, the following plans also take you through the Bible in a non-sequential order, again to facilitate better understanding of the Bible as you are reading it. Continue your daily prayer that God give you His Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are about to read—and expect that you will be wonderfully rewarded!

The structure of the OT

The Law: known as Torah in Hebrew. which means "instruction"; the Law is the first five books of the Bible. Historical books and Prophets: known as

nevi-im in Hebrew, these are the books that contain detailed historical accounts of the leaders and rulers of the Israelite

The Writings: known as *ketuvim*, these are books of poetry and wisdom. The structure of the NT

Historical books: consisting of the four Gospels and Acts. The Gospels are named according to the author: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew and John were two of the twelve disciples of Jesus during His earthly life and ministry. Mark was likely a young man who was among the larger band of disciples that followed Jesus. Luke was a Greek physician who came to believe in Jesus through Paul's missionary work. He also authored Acts.

Letters: as implied, these are letters written by the apostles, who were the leaders of the group of believers that emerged immediately following the resurrection of Jesus.

Prophecy: the only prophetic book of the NT is Revelation, which tells of the return of Jesus to finalize His Kingdom after there has been sufficient time for all the nations to have a chance to hear and to respond to the message of salvation by believing in Him.

Proposed reading plans

The remainder of the Bible can be read and studied by breaking up into the following subjects:

- 1. The Law
- 2. Prophecy and end times
- Life in the "Body of Christ"
- 4. Warnings against false teachers
- 5. OT History: Conquest Judges 6. OT History: Monarchy period
- 7. The writings of David and Solomon
- 8. Refresher: David and Solomon
- 9. OT History: Divided Kingdoms
- 10. OT Prophets to Israel
- 11. Detailed study on Judy
- 12. OT History: Exile and Restoration
- 13. Post-Exile Prophets
- 14. Special books

1. The Law

The books of the Law describe how the Creator God called a nation of special servants, the Israelites, and gave them the task of telling the whole world about Him. You will quickly discover that the Israelites failed in this task time and again. Yet God never abandoned the people of Israel, even to this day and He will still fulfill the promise He made to Abraham in Genesis 12. The books of the Law lay the foundation for understanding all the historical and prophetic books of the Hebrew Scriptures and even more importantly, for understanding how Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) perfectly and completely fulfills the requirements of the Law on our behalf. If He hadn't, we wouldn't be able to have a relationship with our Creator and would remain His enemy (through our own doing, not

The Law begins with the book of Genesis, but since you've just completed reading that book, there is no need to repeat it in this study. Then, after reading Exodus through Deuteronomy, the study is "framed" by another explanatory book on the Law-the letter by Paul to the Galatians, which provides a wonderful way to "stop and look back." Hebrews: a detailed description of how Jesus perfectly fulfills the requirements of the Law on our behalf. Exodus: the account of the rescue of the descendents of Jacob from slavery in Egypt and the formation of the nation of Israel. The first time the Creator God

makes Himself widely known to the

Leviticus: detailed regulations for the Israelite people and their leaders. Numbers: account of how the Israelites didn't trust God and as a result had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the Promised Land. Deuteronomy: after the unbelieving generation died, the new generation had to be re-instructed.

Galatians: letter by Paul that gives a summary of the Law and how through Jesus, we are released from bondage of the Law to live Spirit-filled lives.

2. Prophecy and end times

The Bible speaks considerably about future events-in both OT and NT. Some events described in both testaments have been fulfilled, whereas others events have yet to take place. Some prophecies are obvious in their fulfillment, such as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, whereas it is not as clear in other cases. As we read through the Bible, we should not overly focus on determining if a certain prophecy has been fulfilled or not, but rather try to learn what God is telling us through the words of the prophets. Here, we take a closer look at the books of the Bible that speak directly about end times. Matthew: one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. He wrote his gospel to a Jewish audience, emphasizing how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies and Law of the Hebrew

Scriptures. 1-2 Thessalonians: letter by Paul to the believers in Thessalonica, who had some anxieties about the end times. Isaiah: the prophet that wrote the most about the coming Messiah. Joel: visions of the coming judgment and of an age when God's Spirit will be poured out upon many people. Zechariah: visions of the coming Messiah and His new kingdom. Daniel 7-12: visions given to the Hebrew named Daniel during the Exile period (6th century BC) that are a prelude to the visions given to John in the book of

Revelation: visions of the end of the age, when Jesus returns to finalize His

3. Life in the Body of Christ

The Bible and Paul in particular, speaks frequently of life in the "body of Christ"—the gathering together of local believers for the purpose of enlarging the Kingdom of Jesus and to encourage, help and support one another. This study takes us through the books in the Bible that speak most directly on the "body life" of the believer—that is, how we should live our lives as followers of Jesus.

The first king, Saul, had great potential but his heart did not follow God. The second king, David, was a "man after God's own heart" and is still today considered the one of the greatest figures in all of Israel's history. His son, Solomon, was the third and final king of the United Kingdom period. He started off with a heart for God, but over time, he drifted away, which set in motion the events that led to the division of Israel into two nations.

1 Samuel 8-31: the first king Saul and the rise of David.

2 Samuel: the rule of David after the death of Saul

1 Kings 1-11: the passing of David, the reign of Solomon, his wisdom and the temple that he built to honor God.

7. Writings of David and Solomon

In this section, we take a break from the historical books to read through the literary and poetry books attributed to David and Solomon.

Psalms: considered the most beautiful portions of the whole Bible. They are worship songs (note that the English word song is derived from the Hebrew word psalm) and many contain instructions on what instruments are to be played or what tune is to be used. Thus it is no wonder that believers of God throughout the ages have used the Psalms as their source of inspiration for the worship music of their generation. Proverbs: a compilation of wisdom sayings, most attributed to Solomon.

8. Refresher: David and 5. Conquest to Judges

After the death of Moses, Joshua led the people into the Promised Land to establish the nation of Israel. Following the settlement, there was a long period where Israel was ruled by decentralized leaders called Judges.

1-2 Corinthians: perhaps the definitive

Philippians: the joy of having a new life

Colossians: how Jesus is everything that

James: character traits of a disciple that

Titus: the virtue of self-control in the life

1 Peter: hope for the believer that is

Philemon: an example showing what

true "body life" behavior looks like.

4. Warnings against false

Four of the New Testament authors,

and detailed warnings about false

Paul, Peter, John and Jude give specific

teachers that try to lead believers astray.

When something is repeated so often by

so many different writers, we should

take special note, thus the reason why

The letters are brief, but packed with

we have a specific study on this subject.

1-2 Timothy: Paul's instructional letters

to Timothy, a young leader in the church

2 Peter: a letter cautioning believers to

be ready for the forthcoming day when

2-3 John: warnings against false teachers

and those that would hinder believers in

Jude: warnings about false teachers that

had infiltrated the community of

believers and were already leaders.

rejecting God is common.

their work for the Kingdom.

truly believes and follows Jesus.

facing trials and suffering.

books on life in the body of Christ.

through Jesus Christ.

we need.

of a believer.

teachers

powerful lessons.

in Ephesus.

Joshua: account of the Israelites entering the land promised to them by God Judges: a period of approximately 400 years when Israel was ruled by Judges. Ruth: the account of the family line of King David.

1 Samuel 1-7: introduction to the Kings period of Israel's history.

6. Monarchy Period

After the Judges period, three monarchs or kings ruled over Israel. This period lasted 120 years during which time Israel's wealth and prominence among the surrounding nations greatly increased. This lesson takes us through the so-called United Kingdom period of Israel's history, so named because all 12 tribes were united under the rule of a single king.

Solomon

Whenever anything is repeated in the Bible, whether it is the repetition of a single word, phrase or verse, or whether it is entire narratives, this is God's ways of saying to us: "pay very close attention!" The historical account given in the book of Chronicles is very similar—oftentimes identical—to the accounts we recently read in the books of 1-2 Samuel and 1 Kings. However, the Chronicler makes a special point of highlighting and commenting on the rule of King David. Recall that it is from the line of David that the Messiah (Savior) is to come, thus the importance that God has placed on this period of Israel's history. Don't think of it as boring repetition, but instead look at the special emphasis that God wants you to pay very close attention to-having this mindset as you read through Chronicles will allow the Holy Spirit to teach you more about God.

1 Chronicles: a commentary on the life of King David.

2 Chronicles 1-9: a commentary on the life of King Solomon.

9. Divided Kingdoms

Among the most exciting and epic writings in all of the Bible. The remainder of 1-2 Kings tells how Israel became divided: the Southern Kingdom of Judah, consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin; and the Northern Kingdom of Israel, consisting of the remaining ten tribes. Immediately, the first king of Israel adopted the Egyptian idolatrous practice of bull worship and as a result, there never was a ruler out of the 19 kings in Israel that did what was right in the sight of the Lord. The Northern Kingdom was conquered

around 722 bc by Assyria and the people scattered throughout the Assyrian empire, never to return. Non-Hebrews (i.e., foreigners) inhabited the land and it became known ever-after as a defiled land full of idolatrous mixed-bred people. This region would come to be called Samaria in Jesus' day. The Southern Kingdom of Judah fared only a little better. Out of 20 kings, there were eight that did what was right in the sight of the Lord. Nevertheless, Judah too was punished and was conquered by the Babylonians around 586 bc. The people were taken into captivity and it is here that the Hebrew people became known as "Jews" which is a shortened version of

1 Kings 12-22: account of the kings of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. 2 Kings: the continuing account, including the fall of both kingdoms.

10. Prophets to Israel

Two prophets spoke against the idolatries and wickedness in Israel. Hosea: a stinging indictment against the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Amos: judgment of Israel is at hand.

11. Detailed study on Judah

As mentioned earlier, repetition in the Bible speaks volumes. Here, we revisit the demise of Judah and take a closer look at what the prophets of that day were saying against Judah.

2 Chronicles 10-36: the remainder of the Chronicler's commentary on the kings of the Southern Kingdom.

Micah: mainly directed against the evil kings of Judah, he also speaks of the destruction of both Israel and Judah. Nahum: actually directed against Nineveh (Assyrians), but is included here since the events were relevant at the time when only Judah remained. Habakkuk: warning to Judah of the coming Babylonian invasion.

Zephaniah: warnings against Judah that doom is at hand.

Jeremiah: know as the "weeping prophet," he warns hard-hearted people of Jerusalem's eminent destruction. Lamentations: a poetical lament over the destruction of Jerusalem.

12. Exile and the Restoration

The day that the prophets had warned of had finally arrived—the kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Babylonians. Unlike the Assyrians that completely destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel nearly two centuries earlier, the Babylonians were different kinds of victors. They allowed the people of Judah to retain their cultural identity even though many were deported from Jerusalem to Babylon (modern day Iraq). It was here that the Hebrew people became known as the "Jews" (short for Judah)—from which we get the modern term "Jewish" when referring to someone descended from the 12 tribes of

Exile was the most humiliating thing that could possibly happen to the descendents of Abraham-it seemed that God abandoned His people. But God did not abandon His people and moved in amazing and miraculous ways to restore a remnant of the people to the capital city of Jerusalem and rebuild it. The Exile lasted 70 years. Ezekiel: some of the most amazing and horrifying visions in all of the Bible.

drafted into the Babylonian court during the Exile; and the conquest of the Babylonians by the Persians. Ezra 1-6: the first phase of the Restoration, where the Persian king allows Zerubabbel to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Esther: account of a Hebrew girl that

Daniel 1-6: account of 4 young Hebrews

was chosen to marry the Persian king just in time to prevent a plan to annihilate the Jewish exiles. If it weren't for Esther, Ezra and Nehemiah would not have lived to lead the remainder of the Restoration process. Ezra 7-10: the second phase of the

Restoration, where Ezra returns to Jerusalem to rally the people. Nehemiah: final phase of the Restoration by Nehemiah who oversees the rebuilding of the Jerusalem's walls.

13. Post-Exile Prophets

There are three prophets to Judah after the Restoration: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. We read Zechariah earlier in the study, so we won't repeat the reading here. Here, we also include Obadiah, even though his message was against the neighboring kingdom of Edom (distant relatives of Israelites, descended not of Jacob's line, but of his twin brother Esau). The two groups had always been at war, just as Jacob and Esau were. Obadiah: punishment of Edom for their participation in the plundering of Jerusalem (recorded in 2 Chronicles). Haggai: rebuilding of the temple after the return from Exile. Malachi: a final warning to the disobedient Israelites.

14. Special books

There are four books that complete our study of the Bible. These books are last because they are the most difficult or the most widely misunderstood. Saving them for last hopefully helps us understand them better than if we had attempted to read them earlier.

Job: a profoundly enigmatic (much like the subject) analysis of the issue of suffering. It is almost entirely a work of poetry, making interpretation on this difficult subject even more challenging. Ecclesiastes: a commentary on the futility of living without making the Creator God a central part of your life. Song of Solomon: beautiful poetry with sensual imagery that speaks about love on many levels—between a husband and wife, and between the loving Creator God and His people.

Jonah: well-known account of the prophet swallowed by a whale, but one in which most readers completely miss the point. This book is all about the grace of God and how we as depraved humans, much like Jonah, don't understand what God is trying to do. Today, we are no different than Jonah was in his day.