



EQUIP

study guide





WEEK ONE

Introduction

1. What are some things that can make reading and understanding the Bible challenging?
2. What thoughts come to your mind about the idea of the kingdom of God? What do you think of Roberts' description (p. 21)?
3. What are some potential dangers of not seeing the Bible as one cohesive book?

Memory Work:

List the Books of the Bible in order

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17



WEEK TWO

Chapter 1: The Pattern of the Kingdom

1. What do we learn about the character of God and about the material world through the creation account (Genesis 1-2)?
2. Do you think there is a contradiction between science and the Bible? Explain.
3. What are some important implications of humanity being created in God's image – and how does it touch upon certain contemporary social issues?
4. What are some of the patterns for life in God's world that are established in Genesis 1-2 and how do we see these patterns breaking down in today's culture? What are some helpful ways we can respond to the breakdown?

Memory Work

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ~ Genesis 1:26-27



WEEK THREE

Chapter 2: The Perished Kingdom

1. Do you think the opening chapters of the Bible (Genesis 1-3) should be understood as recording actual history? Why or why not? What are some implications either way?
2. According to the Bible, the fundamental problem with the world is human sin. Do you agree with this? What evidence for sin and its consequences would you point out in the world to support the Bible's claims?
3. Throughout this section on the perished kingdom, are there any signs of hope? Elaborate.
4. Were there things in this week's reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ~ Romans 5:19



WEEK FOUR

Chapter 3: The Promised Kingdom

1. What promises does the Lord make to Abraham, and how do these promises relate to the kingdom of God (pp. 53-55)?
2. How would you describe a “covenant?” How does our understanding of the covenants discussed in this chapter inform our view of the “big picture” of the Bible?
3. Have you ever wondered how people in the Old Testament before the time of Jesus were saved? How would you answer that question (Genesis 15:6)?
4. Were there things in this week’s reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

~Genesis 3:15



WEEK FIVE

Chapter 4: The Partial Kingdom (Part One)

1. What do we learn about God, ourselves, and the progress of the kingdom in the book of Genesis (particularly chapters 12-50), and what are some ways this portion of the Bible points forward to Jesus Christ?
2. What are some of the key features of God's kingdom and his redemptive plan introduced in the book of Exodus?
3. What was the purpose of God's law as given on Mt. Sinai? What binding authority, if any, do the 10 Commandments have for Christians today?
4. Were there things in this week's reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. ~ Exodus 12:13



WEEK SIX

Chapter 4: The Partial Kingdom (Part Two)

1. What are some important truths we learn from Israel's wilderness wanderings in the book of Numbers and from the conquest of the land in the book of Joshua?
2. How would you summarize the spiritual history of Israel under the kings of the Old Testament from the period of the judges to the time of exile (the good, the bad, and the ugly)?
3. What progress in establishing the kingdom of God is seen during the time of the monarchy – and how does this period look forward to the New Testament and find fulfillment in Jesus Christ?
4. Were there things in this week's reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. ~ 1 Kings 8:56



WEEK SEVEN

Chapter 5: The Prophesied Kingdom

1. What comes to mind when you think about a prophet? What did the prophets in the Old Testament do and how would you summarize their message?
2. What truths do we learn about the character of God from the message of the prophets, and how do these truths both encourage and challenge us today?
3. How would you describe the coming kingdom of God envisioned by the Old Testament prophets, and how does their prophetic vision both look back and look forward? When were the promises of God's coming kingdom fulfilled?
4. Were there things in this week's reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ~ Isaiah 53:5-6



WEEK EIGHT

Chapter 6: The Present Kingdom

1. How is Jesus the fulfillment of Old Testament promises and expectations?
2. How does Jesus inaugurate the kingdom of God in his ministry and bring to realization its component parts (“God’s people in God’s place under his rule and blessing”)?
3. What terms are particularly meaningful to you in thinking about the work that Jesus accomplished on earth (for example, p. 116)? What has he done to save sinners?
4. Were there things in this week’s reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ~ Luke 24:44



WEEK NINE

Chapter 7: The Proclaiming Kingdom

1. Is locating ourselves in the place of God's unfolding story important? What implications does it have for understanding our calling as God's people and for our understanding of the nature of God's kingdom in the world today?
2. How does (or should) the "already" aspect of the arrival of God's kingdom impact your daily life? How do you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and in the world?
3. How does (or should) the "not yet" aspect of the arrival of God's kingdom impact your daily life? How does (or should) the reality of the return of Christ influence your life decisions?
4. Were there things in this week's reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. ~ Acts 1:8



WEEK TEN

Chapter 8: The Perfected Kingdom

1. What instruction does the book of Revelation provide for living wisely in today's world?
2. In what ways do the final chapters of Revelation recall features of the opening chapters of Genesis? What does this tell us about God, his character, and his purposes?
3. How will the kingdom of God finally be established and what will be the expression of its parts ("God's people in God's place under his rule and blessing")? What should be our response in the present to this coming reality?
4. Were there things in this week's reading that you found insightful in helping you understand the Bible – or personally encouraging and/or challenging in your walk with the Lord?

Memory Work

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ~ Revelation 21:3-4

