



## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON: THE BIBLE

Discuss these passages and what they say about God's Word.

**John 1:1-5, 1 John 1:1-4, and John 14:6**

The apostle John made it very clear that Jesus Christ was God's Word--that is, God communicating with us--in human form, and Jesus clearly claimed this was true. What does this say about the Bible, since so much of it revolves around Jesus?

**John 17:17**

When Jesus says "Your Word is truth" in this prayer, He's talking about everything God says. This does include the written Word of God, but that's not exactly what He was saying...

**2 Timothy 3:16**

When Paul says, "All scripture is God-breathed..." he was talking about the Old Testament. We believe that this verse also applies to what Paul and others were still writing, but his main point here was that the Old Testament still applied and was very relevant under the new covenant.

**2 Peter 1:12-21**

Peter specifically talks about his writings and all other scripture as truth.

**Luke 24:25**

Jesus opened people's minds so they could understand God's truth.

**Romans 12:1-2**

God transforms us by renewing our minds. Then--and only then--can we really understand His will.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

Truth comes from--and is interpreted by--the Holy Spirit.

How would your group summarize a biblical perspective on the Bible itself?

Have your group complete this sentence: If the Bible really is God's Word...



## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON: CREATION

Discuss these passages and what they say about where the world came from.

**John 1:1-5 and Genesis 1-3**

These are the actual accounts of creation.

**Matthew 13:35, Mark 10:6, John 17:24, Romans 1:20 & 8:39, 2 Peter 3:3-5**

Passages throughout the Bible refer to the world as “creation” and God as the Creator. These are just a few, and they include the quoted words of Jesus as well as other Biblical writers’ words.

Discuss these scriptures and what they say about the following questions.

**Did God create the world in 6 literal days?**

Note: Countless sincere Christians have made countless good points on both sides of this issue, and it has been controversial since the late 1700s. You can check out [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) for some fair, scientifically sound articles that take this a lot deeper (including the various possible meanings for the Hebrew word translated “day”), but the purpose of this discussion is simply to see what the Bible says!

**Genesis 1, 2:2-3, Exodus 20:8-11 and 31:17, Hebrews 4:4**

See note above, but if you were simply reading this, what would it sound like it said?

**How did God create human beings?**

Note: Genesis 2 can be interpreted several ways. One is as a poem of sorts (not necessarily literal) about what it means that God created mankind “in His image” and “male and female”. Most Christians see it as a zoomed-in account of that part of Day 6 (see Genesis 1:24-31). But again, we are simply looking at what the Bible says, and how other passages refer to it...

**Genesis 1:24-31; 2; 5:1-2; Matthew 19:1-6; Mark 10:1-9**

What do these passages say about the nature of humanity, marriage, etc.?

**How would your group summarize a biblical perspective on creation?**

**Have your group complete this sentence: If God created everything...**



## **A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON: SIN AND EVIL**

**Discuss these passages and what they say about the origins of sin and evil.**

### **Genesis 3**

Take some time to read this story carefully and really process it. Try to guide your group beyond the familiar and distracting details fairly quickly (a talking snake? naked people?). Instead, focus on the relevant truths this story illustrates (doubt, pride, peer pressure, blaming others, etc.).

Here are some really deep questions that might come up, and a few scriptures that apply.

- 1) So...ultimately, God created evil? (see James 1:13-18)
- 2) What exactly was the “original sin”? (see James 3:13-18 and 4:4-10)

### **Genesis 4**

It didn't take long for things to degenerate further... Discuss this story and the implications of the first murder, and compare this story with the process described in Romans 1:18-32.

**How would your group summarize a biblical perspective on sin and evil?**

**Have your group complete this sentence: Sin and evil come from...**



## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON: PROVIDENCE

Discuss this passage and the topics it touches on.

### Genesis 5

At first glance, this passage seems like just a bunch of names, but this list is a window into a great discussion on God's providence--that is, His master plan and ultimate control.

First, God reiterates the simplicity of His original creation (v.1-2). If necessary, take some time to review what you've covered, so far.

Next, we see Romans 8:28 illustrated in how God kept Adam's family going--including the hope of a savior promised at the end of Genesis 3--despite Cain's sin and Abel's early death. This could lead to a pretty deep conversation, so be careful...or go for it! Does God micro-manage everything (kind of like a cosmic chess game against Himself) or simply do what it takes to bless those that love Him, no matter how they--or others--complicate things? Or something in between...?

This passage makes it clear that God still had intimate relationships with those who really wanted it (v.18-24, also Hebrews 11:5). Take as much time as you need to talk about "walking with God."

Just for fun, check out Methuselah, the oldest guy ever (v.21-27)! Take a few minutes to do some math and you'll be amazed--the stories Noah grew up hearing weren't too far from first hand...

And finally, there's a cool hidden message in the Hebrew names.\* When you string the names in this list together and allow for Hebrew grammar, the names Adam - Noah mean the following:  
Man - Appointed - Mortal - Sorrow - The Blessed God - Shall come down - Teaching - His death shall bring - The despairing - Rest/Comfort

How would your group summarize a biblical perspective on providence?

Have your group complete this sentence: "God is in control" means...

\* Go to <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/284> for more. Adam Bloch contributed this idea!



## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON: THE FLOOD

**Discuss these passages and what they say about the global flood, the ark, and Noah.**

This would be a great time to remind your students to be reading ahead and reading their Bibles on their own, not just studying and discussing in class. Three chapters isn't much at home, over the course of a few days, but it's a lot to cover in one discussion time...

### Genesis 6

If your group likes to dig really deep and/or discuss obscure stuff, challenge them to do some research and have a special discussion on who "the sons of God" and the "Nephilim" were.

(v.5-8) We all know God has a lot of patience, love, forgiveness, mercy, grace...but it apparently has a limit. Where does God draw the line? Can we go too far?

See: Romans 2:2-11, 2 Peter 3:9, Hebrews 6:1-6

(v.8-22) This story is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. Most people think they already know it. Take your time as you go through it, though. Pay attention to the details. Put yourself in Noah's place. Talk about what we would do if asked to do something outlandish like this.

**BONUS FUN:** While the movie *Evan Almighty* is not (and is not meant to be) theologically sound, it does a great and often funny job of putting the God-told-me-to-build-a-huge-boat idea in a modern context. Have a video night or show this at a lock-in, and then talk about it.

### Genesis 7-8

Again, take your time and pay attention to the details. How many of each kind of animal was there, really? How long did they have to wait in the sealed-up ark before the rain started--and what were they thinking (not to mention seeing, hearing, smelling, etc.) then? What would riding out the flood, taking care of the animals, etc. be like? How long did it all take? Discuss it all!

For the latest scientific research on this, check out [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) again!

**How would your group summarize a biblical perspective on the Genesis flood?**

**Have your group complete this sentence: I believe Noah's ark...**