

Session 1: Introduction to the Bible

Small Group Guide

Warm up (activity to connect with the theme)

Stories are powerful. Share some of your favourite stories – it may have been a film, a book or a play. Share a reason behind your choice.

Worldviews are expressed in stories. Looking at the world around, are we in need of experiencing a better story? Why might the Bible offer a better story?

Message (summary video)

Watch the video by Andrew Ollerton that summarises the big story of the Bible and its relevance to our lives.

Scripture readings (for the group to read together)

2 Timothy 3.15–17, Luke 24.13–35

Discussion time

- What are your initial reactions to the film?
- We talk about the Bible being world-class literature. Do you have a favourite passage, verse or story from the Bible?
- What are your experiences of reading the Bible? What are some of the joys and challenges you've faced with it?
- Does it surprise you that the Bible is one big story? What are the threads linking it all together? Read Luke 24.13–35 and consider the difference seeing the Bible as one story of miraculous harmony that leads to Jesus can make to you today.
- 'Something mysterious happens when people engage with the Bible.' What do you make of this claim? Have you ever experienced this?

Response time (a reflection to lead into prayer time)

Read 2 Timothy 3.16. Take a moment to reflect on this verse, and write down something from this verse/teaching that has inspired you. Spend time in prayer together that God would speak to you and transform you on this journey through the whole Bible story.

Daily content

Continue the journey this week by reading the daily chapters of content and Scriptures in the series book by Andrew Ollerton, *The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life* (Hodder).



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