

Bible discovery session summaries and readings

For each session, read as much as you like ahead of time—whether one chapter or many!

Session/Date	Topic	Short Reading	Long Reading
1 – Apr 21	CREATION and THE MEANING OF LIFE	Genesis 1-3	Genesis 1-3
	The opening stories of the Bible stand as important theological reflections on the calling of humans and casts a vision of the originally intended harmonious relationship between humans, God, and the rest of creation, and the ways in which that relationship (and thus all our relationships) become damaged and distorted.		
2 – Apr 28	GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE: THE STORY OF THE PATRIARCHS and MATRIARCHS	Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-18:15, 21:1-22:19, 25:19-34, 27:1-45	Genesis 12-50
	The stories of God choosing and making covenant with the early ancestors of Israel—Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and his wives and sons—are often surprising. These people are less simple “heroes of the faith” and more complex people with moments of failure as well as faith, yet God remains faithful.		
3 – May 5	CALLED TO FREEDOM: THE EXODUS	Exodus 1-15 & 19-20	Exodus 1-20, 24, 32-34
	When God’s people, the descendants of Jacob (aka, Israel), become enslaved, God’s faithfulness is shown and God’s nature as a deliverer from oppression comes to the fore. God works through the leadership of Moses to lead God’s people to freedom and gives the law to guide their relationships with one another.		
4 – May 12	ISRAEL: NATIONHOOD and EXILE	1 Samuel 15-20 2 Samuel 11-15	Joshua 1-7 Judges 2-8 1 Samuel 1-8 and 15-20 2 Samuel 11-15 1 Kings 1-11
	Becoming a kingdom in the “promised land”—and then losing it through disobedience—is one of the key narratives of God’s people, Israel, and one fraught with moral and spiritual complexity. Join us as we look at how they wrestle with what it means to be God’s people in the world.		
5 – May 19	THE STORIES OF JESUS	Matthew 5-7, 13, and 23-28; John 1-4 and 13-21	Gospels of Matthew and John
	Even for life-long Christians, the stories of Jesus in the different Gospels contain surprises and revelations. Jesus is not only a loving savior but a challenging prophet and enigmatic teacher. Explore the stories of his life and teaching with us!		
6 – May 26	STORIES OF JESUS’ FIRST FOLLOWERS	Acts 1-11 and 19-24	Book of Acts
	The work that God began in Jesus continues in his followers, as they go into the world and encounter both challenges and acceptance. In their stories we can find wisdom and inspiration for our own faithful following in the world.		
7 – June 2	THE LETTERS OF PAUL	Philippians and Ephesians	Romans and 1 Corinthians
	Aside from Jesus himself, no other person has had a greater influence on Christian belief than the Apostle Paul, yet his letters can be both complex and even off-putting. Come and dig into his thought and the “whys” of how he writes to the communities he founds and shepherds.		

8 – June 9	REVELATION: THE CULMINATION OF ALL THINGS	Revelation 1-7 and 19-22	Book of Revelation
No book of the Bible has been simultaneously so influential and so avoided! Come and find out why you don't have to be an end-times nut to be inspired by the revelation of Jesus in the last book of the Bible.			