

Confirmation Review #1: What is the Bible?

Your answers to "The Bible Is..."

- A guide to everything
- God's Word
- A collection of stories
- What helps us see Jesus
- Meant to be understood
- A place to find answers and learn lessons
- Learn more about people
- A book or, more accurately, a collection of books
- What communicates the grace of God in Jesus Christ
- God's word but humans have been inspired to write it
- What guides our thinking about matters of faith and life
- Quite old
- Holy because God speaks to us in it
- Not a rule book or a history book or even a self-help book
- Inspired by God
- Sacred Scripture for those who practice both Judaism and Christianity
- God's Word for humankind
- God's book of knowledge told by people from the creation of the earth.

Other answers to "The Bible is..."

- A book of books/a collection of books of different types written at various times, written in different languages, by people from various cultures, for different purposes
- Stories, poetry, songs, lists, rules, dreams and visions
- Sacred Scripture
- Written Word of God: God's Word for humankind
- Book of faith (from faith, in faith, for faith)
- Stories handed down from generation to generation
- Both human and divine
- The Bible is the manger and swaddling clothes of Christ.
- The Bible was written by a large number of people, writing for different reasons.
- The Bible is the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
- The Bible is the word of God and reveals the Word of God, Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ is the lens through which we read the Bible.
- The proclamation of Law and Gospel is the word of God.

Why is the Bible important? What's the Bible got to do with me?

- The Bible tells the amazing story of God's love for creation and, specifically, you.
- Through it, God acts to change lives
- It records and announces God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ
- Through it, God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- It communicates the grace of God in Jesus Christ
- It guides our thinking about matters of faith and life.
- For any Bible text, it's important to ask whether it reveals the God of love.

Looking at the Lutheran Study Bible (pp.19-32)

What's in the Bible? (pp.24-29)

Old Testament

- 39 books (Pentateuch; Historical; Writings/Poetry; Prophets)

New Testament

- 27 books: Gospels and Acts; Letters of Paul and his co-workers; General Letters; Revelation

Bible History Timeline: OT period (pp.30-32)

Related words:

- Scripture: writing that is sacred to a religious group. For Christians, the books of the Old and New Testament are Scripture.
- Canon: a list of books that authorities agree is Scripture
- Inspired: an idea or teaching, for example, that comes from God through the Holy Spirit
- Interpretation: the finding, making, and sharing of meaning. It is impossible to read and understand something without interpreting it.
- Translation: the restatement of words from one language into another language.