



spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

THE ONE ABOUT THE BIBLE

PART 2: Why Christians Believe the Old Testament

READ: THE OLD TESTAMENT

As you discovered in your last gathering, the Bible is one book made up of many books. In fact, the Old Testament, the first 39 books of the Bible, were written by at least 30 different authors. If you've ever read from the pages of many of the Old Testament books, you likely have discovered some strange stories. There's a worldwide flood, a magnificent tower that leads to people speaking foreign languages, and even a talking donkey. The Old Testament has books entirely dedicated to listing the laws for God's people and sections that describe the bloody details of battles and ancient pagan practices.

DISCUSS:

- What is one story or part of the Old Testament that you find strange or have questions about?

READ: DO WE NEED THE OLD TESTAMENT?

As followers of Jesus, it can be easy to think that the Old Testament is just that - "old" - something to put behind us, move on from, and ignore. We might reason that the Old Testament was something that people needed before Jesus, but now that we have a record of Jesus' life and teachings, we can just focus on that. Is the Old Testament absolutely necessary? Is it something we should give our time and attention to? Is there a good reason that Christians keep the Old Testament as part of their scriptures?

Well, to help answer that question, we are going to take a look at a passage in the New Testament. It is in the Gospel of Luke, and it's an account of something that happened after Jesus' crucifixion. Two followers of Jesus were leaving Jerusalem, and they were discussing what had happened to Jesus when a stranger joined them on the road.

STUDY: Luke 24:13-32

Read Luke 24:13-18

- What are Cleopas and his friend shocked by?

Read Luke 24:19-24

- Summarize the story that they share with the “stranger” on their walk.

Read Luke 24:25-32

- What did Jesus share with them to help them understand the events they had experienced?
- In verse 32, how do the men describe what it was like when Jesus explained the Scriptures to them?

READ:

When it comes to understanding why Christians believe the Old Testament, there are a number of reasons. But the clearest and most compelling reason is because Jesus believed and taught that the Old Testament was God’s Word. He knew the Old Testament scriptures, referring to them often and using them to teach people about God and His Kingdom.

ACTIVITY: SCRIPTURE MATCH - Read the verses below and match them to the correct description.

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. Matthew 4:4-10 | A. Jesus referenced Scripture to teach about the Sabbath. |
| 2. Luke 4:16-19 | B. Jesus defended His association with sinners with scripture. |
| 3. Matthew 12:5 | C. Jesus referenced scripture to predict His suffering. |
| 4. Matthew 21:13 | D. Jesus quoted scripture to resist the devil’s temptations. |
| 5. Luke 18:31-34 | E. Jesus submitted Himself to the fulfillment of scripture. |
| 6. Mark 14:49 | F. Jesus read from the book of Isaiah in the Synagogue. |
| 7. Matthew 9:13 | G. Jesus used Scripture to defend cleansing the Temple. |

answer key: 1-D, 2-F, 3-A, 4-G, 5-C, 6-E, 7-B

CHALLENGE:

- This week, use the QR code to the right and take 15 minutes and watch the video about the Old Testament from The Bible Project. Listen for the major themes and discover how it fits in God’s larger story. After you’ve watched it send your Discipleship Partner(s) a text about something you learned.

