

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Several years ago, a series of popular memes circulated the internet. Each meme included different pictures and titles that described a person's job or career. Under each picture was a description about what different groups of people thought someone with that job does. The descriptions were usually something like, "what my friends think I do ... what my mom thinks I do ... what society thinks I do ... etc." The pictures were typically a humorous depiction of how that particular group of people perceived that job or career. The last picture always had the title, "what I actually do" and included a humorous picture with some truth to it.

This same sentiment sometimes applies to the Bible. There are a variety of opinions about what the Bible is. Some people perceive the Bible to be an old, outdated, historical book, while others think the Bible is strictly a book of rules and regulations on how we are to live our lives. Some people look for scientific explanations in the Bible, while others look to the Bible as a literal explanation of the workings of the world. And somehow, in the midst of all of these ideas about what the Bible is, we find what it actually is: a collection, or library, of 73 different books that were written over the span of about 1,600 years by several authors. Many books of the Bible differ from one another in that they have a unique literary style due to the author of that particular book. In addition, the books of the Bible often address a specific audience and may have different intentions, such as conflict mediation. Some books of the Bible contain literal descriptions of events that took place, while others were written to simply point to a moral truth. Some books of the Bible were written to foreshadow an event that would eventually take place (allegorical) and others point us toward eternity (anagogical). Regardless of the literary style the individual books are written in, or what the intention of the books is, one truth remains: The Bible is meant to help us know and love God so we can direct our lives toward Him.

God created us with a desire to know Him, and we learn who God is in the pages of the Bible. We believe that God is the ultimate author of truth and that the individual authors of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is through our faith, which is a gift from God, that we can come to believe all God has revealed to us. It is through reason, which is also a gift from God, that we can understand more of what is being revealed to us. When we come to a better understanding of what God has revealed to us, we can know God more and direct our lives more fully to Him.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. How do you view the Bible? How often do you read the Bible?
2. What is the biggest challenge you have in understanding the Bible?
3. What can we, as a family, do to better understand the Bible?