

Let the Bible Be Weird Week 1

Discussion Guide

The Bible Is Not One Kind of Book

Luke 24:13-35

Leader Setup

This discussion is designed to help the group think not only about **what Luke 24 means**, but also about **how Jesus teaches us to read Scripture**.

Try to keep the conversation grounded in the text, but allow space for people to name honestly where Bible reading has felt confusing, frustrating, intimidating, or dry.

Helpful follow-up prompts:

- “Where do you see that in the passage?”
- “What kind of text are we reading here?”
- “How might we read this differently if we slow down?”
- “What assumptions might we be bringing to the Bible?”
- “How does this passage point us toward Jesus?”

Part 1: Naming Our Expectations

Before reading Luke 24 together, begin with a few opening questions.

1. When you read the Bible, what kinds of passages feel easiest or most familiar to you?
2. What kinds of passages do you tend to skim, avoid, or struggle with?
3. Have you ever felt like you were told that you *should* read the Bible, but were not really taught *how* to read it? What has that looked like for you?
4. In the message, Billy compared expecting the Bible to work like an app, when really we have been given a library. What do you think that comparison helps us see?
5. What happens when we expect every part of the Bible to be immediately clear, practical, and easy to apply?

Leader note:

This opening section should not become a guilt trip about Bible reading. The goal is to help people name their assumptions and realize they are not alone.

Part 2: Read the Passage as a Story

Read Luke 24:13-24 aloud.

6. Before trying to apply the passage, ask the first question from the series reading guide: **What kind of thing is this?** What kind of text are we reading in Luke 24?
7. Since this is a narrative, what should we pay attention to as we read?

Possible answers:

- setting
 - movement
 - characters
 - dialogue
 - conflict
 - turning points
 - what changes from beginning to end
8. What do you notice about where the disciples are going?
 9. What do you notice about what they know?
 10. What do they say about Jesus that is true?
 11. What do they seem to be missing?
 12. What does the phrase “we had hoped” reveal about their expectations?
 13. How are their expectations shaping the way they interpret what happened to Jesus?

Leader note:

Help the group see that the disciples do not lack information. They know many of the facts. The issue is how they are interpreting the story.

Part 3: Having the Pieces but Missing the Story

Luke 24:13-24

14. The disciples know about Jesus’ ministry, death, and even reports of the empty tomb. Why do you think they are still confused?
15. What is the difference between knowing Bible facts and understanding the Bible’s story?
16. How can we today know verses, stories, or doctrines, but still miss the larger flow of Scripture?
17. What are some ways Christians sometimes flatten the Bible into something smaller than it is?

Possible examples:

- turning every story into a moral lesson
- reading Proverbs like guaranteed promises

- reading Revelation like a prediction chart
 - treating the Old Testament as mostly irrelevant background
 - reading every passage only for a quick personal takeaway
18. Why is it important to notice the disciples are not being presented as unbelieving skeptics, but as confused followers?

Leader note:

This section is where the group can connect the Emmaus disciples' misreading to our own reading habits. Keep the tone pastoral, not shaming.

Part 4: Jesus Opens the Scriptures

Read Luke 24:25-27 aloud.

19. How does Jesus describe their problem in verse 25?
20. What does He say they have been slow to believe?
21. Why does the word "all" matter in the phrase "all that the prophets have spoken"?
22. What does Jesus say was "necessary" in verse 26?
23. Why would the suffering of the Messiah have been hard for them to understand or accept?
24. Verse 27 says Jesus began with "Moses and all the Prophets." What does this tell us about how Jesus reads the Old Testament?
25. What does it mean to say the Bible is not one kind of book, but it is one unified story?
26. How can we hold together both of these truths?
 - The Bible has many genres and voices.
 - The Bible is one story centered on Jesus.

Leader note:

This is one of the key theological sections. The goal is not to make every Old Testament passage a simplistic "Jesus code," but to see that the whole story moves toward Him.

Part 5: Practicing the First Reading Question

"What Kind of Thing Is This?"

This week's key reading question is: What kind of thing is this?

Before asking, "What does this mean for me?" we ask, "What kind of text am I reading?"

27. Why does this question matter?
28. How might this question change the way we read a Psalm?
29. How might this question change the way we read Proverbs?
30. How might this question change the way we read Revelation?

31. How might this question change the way we read a story like Luke 24?
32. What problems happen when we ignore genre and read everything the same way?

Practice Together

Choose 2-3 short passages below and ask: **What kind of thing is this, and how should that shape the way we read it?**

Option A: Psalm 13:1-2

“How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?”

Questions:

- What kind of writing is this?
- Should we read this as a doctrinal statement that God forgets His people?
- What is lament doing here?

Option B: Proverbs 22:6

“Start children off on the way they should go...”

Questions:

- What kind of writing is this?
- How is wisdom different from a guaranteed promise?
- What happens if we read Proverbs like an absolute formula?

Option C: Revelation 5:5-6

John hears about the Lion, but sees a Lamb standing as though slain.

Questions:

- What kind of writing is this?
- What is the image doing?
- How does symbolic language communicate truth here?

Option D: Luke 10:30-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Questions:

- What kind of teaching is this?
- Why might reducing this to “be nice” flatten the parable?
- How does the story challenge the listener?

Leader note:

This practice section is important. It moves the guide from discussion about Bible reading into actually practicing better Bible reading.

Part 6: Opened Scriptures and Opened Eyes

Read Luke 24:28-32 aloud.

33. What happens when Jesus breaks bread?
34. What do the disciples realize afterward?
35. What do they mean when they say their hearts were burning while Jesus opened the Scriptures?
36. What is the connection between Jesus opening the Scriptures and their eyes being opened?
37. Have you ever had a passage of Scripture “open up” for you after time, study, or a new connection? What changed?
38. What does this passage teach us about patience in Bible reading?

Leader note:

This is a good place to remind the group that understanding often grows over time. Confusion is not failure. Sometimes it is an invitation to keep listening.

Part 7: Right Reading Reorients Us

Read Luke 24:33-35 aloud.

39. What do the disciples do immediately after recognizing Jesus?
40. Why is their return to Jerusalem significant?
41. What changed between their walk away from Jerusalem and their return?
42. How does good Bible reading do more than give us information?
43. What might it look like for Scripture to:
 - reorder our assumptions?
 - reshape our instincts?
 - deepen our worship?
 - redirect our lives toward Jesus?
44. Why is it dangerous to read the Bible only to become more informed, but not more formed?

Part 8: Living This Out This Week

45. What is one part of the Bible you have tended to avoid because it feels strange, confusing, repetitive, or hard?
46. How might the question “What kind of thing is this?” help you approach that part differently?
47. What is one passage you could revisit this week with more patience and attention?
48. What would it look like for you to “stay in the text longer” instead of skipping, skimming, or flattening it?
49. How can this group help one another become better Bible readers, not just people who know more Bible facts?

Closing Prayer Prompt

Close by praying for God to help the group:

- read Scripture with patience and humility
- recognize the different voices and genres of Scripture
- see the one story that points to Jesus
- resist the urge to flatten difficult passages
- become people formed by the Word, not merely informed by it

Leader Tip

Because this discussion is about Bible reading itself, some people may share insecurity, embarrassment, or frustration about Scripture.

When that happens, resist the urge to fix everything quickly.

Instead:

- normalize the struggle
- bring the group back to the text
- emphasize that confusion is not failure
- remind them that learning to read Scripture well is a process

The goal is not to make everyone feel like Bible experts by the end of the discussion.

The goal is to help them become more patient, curious, and faithful readers.