

# Let the Bible Be Weird Week 1

## The Bible Is Not One Kind of Book

### Luke 24:13-35

Big Idea: If we are going to read the Bible well, we have to let it be what it is: one unified story that points to Jesus, told through many kinds of writing that must be listened to on their own terms.

## Introduction: The Expectations We Bring to the Bible

### We Like Clear Instructions

- We prefer:
  - clarity
  - structure
  - step-by-step direction
- When something lacks clear instructions, it creates frustration

### We Often Read the Bible the Same Way

- We expect:
  - immediate clarity
  - quick application
  - simple takeaways
- We treat Scripture like:
  - a manual
  - a devotional guide
  - a problem-solving tool

### What Happens When the Bible Doesn't Fit That Expectation

We encounter:

- genealogies
- laws and rituals
- poetry and lament
- prophetic imagery

- apocalyptic visions

And we begin to wonder:

“What am I supposed to do with this?”

## The Real Problem

- We were taught to read the Bible
- But not always *how* to read it

So we developed assumptions:

- It should make sense immediately
- It should sound the same throughout
- It should always be directly applicable

When it doesn't:

- we assume something is wrong
- we skip or flatten difficult sections

## Key Reframe

- The Bible is not broken
- Our expectations may be misaligned

We expected an app... but we were given a library  
Libraries don't reward speed, they reward attention

## Pastoral Confession

- It is easier to:
  - explain the Bible
  - than to equip others to read it well
- This series is about helping others:
  - read
  - understand
  - engage Scripture deeply

## Foundational Truth

The Bible is not one kind of book

## Text Context: Luke 24:13-35

- Resurrection Sunday
- Jesus is alive
- The tomb is empty

Yet:

- the disciples are confused
- they have information
- but lack understanding

They have the pieces... but don't know how to read the story

## Main Point 1: You Can Have Scripture and Still Misread the Story

Luke 24:13-24

### The Disciples' Summary

They describe Jesus as:

- a prophet
- crucified
- and say: "We had hoped..."

### Key Insight

"We had hoped..." reveals a misread story

- They had expectations:
  - about Messiah
  - about redemption
  - about victory

Jesus did not fit their expectations.

### The Core Problem

- Not lack of information
- But misinterpretation

They knew enough to be disappointed... but not enough to understand

## Implication for Us

We can:

- know Scripture
- know verses
- know stories

...and still:

- miss the flow
- miss Christ
- flatten the Bible

## Key Takeaway

Sometimes the issue is not that Scripture failed but that we brought the wrong expectations to it.

## Main Point 2: Jesus Reads the Bible as One Story That Points to Him

Luke 24:25–27

### Jesus' Correction

- “Slow of heart to believe all...”
- The issue: incomplete belief in Scripture

### Key Word: “Necessary”

- The cross was not:
  - an interruption
  - a failure
- It was essential to the story

## The Turning Moment

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets...”

Jesus:

- walks through Scripture
- connects the story
- shows it all points to Him

## Key Insight

The Bible is not:

- random
- disconnected
- moral fragments

It is:

- one unfolding story
- with many voices
- centered on Jesus

## Important Balance

- One story
- Many forms

If we forget:

- unity → Scripture becomes fragmented
- diversity → Scripture becomes flattened

## Key Question

How does this passage fit into the story that leads to Jesus?

# Main Point 3: We Must Let Each Part of the Bible Speak in Its Own Voice

Luke 24:27, 32

## The Result of Jesus' Teaching

“Did not our hearts burn within us...”

- Not just information
- Scripture was opened
- the story came alive

## The Problem

We often read everything the same way:

- Proverbs as promises
- stories as formulas
- poetry as literal prose
- Revelation as prediction charts

## The Reality

Different types of Scripture communicate differently:

- narrative
- poetry
- wisdom
- prophecy
- apocalyptic
- teaching

## Key Principle

Truth comes through different forms and each must be listened to on its own terms

## Series Tool Introduced

### Question #1: What kind of thing is this?

Before asking:

- What does this mean for me?
- What's the takeaway?

Ask:

- Is this a story?
- Poetry?
- Wisdom?
- Command?

- Vision?
- Letter?

## Why It Matters

- It changes how you listen
- It prevents confusion
- It helps you stop forcing the text

You stop fighting the text... and start listening to it

## Main Point 4: Right Reading Reorients the Reader

Luke 24:28-35

### The Moment of Recognition

- Jesus breaks bread
- their eyes are opened
- they recognize Him

### The Immediate Response

They get up and go back

- from leaving → returning
- from confusion → clarity
- from isolation → community

### Key Insight

Scripture opening leads to lives changing

### What Good Bible Reading Does

It:

- reorders assumptions
- reshapes instincts
- deepens worship
- expands imagination
- redirects life

It doesn't just make you smarter, it reorients you

## Application

### 1. Stop expecting every passage to behave the same way

Ask: What kind of thing is this?

### 2. Read the Bible as one story centered on Jesus

Ask: Where does this fit in the bigger story?

### 3. Let confusion become an invitation

Instead of:

- skipping
- dismissing

Ask:

- What is this doing?
- Why is this here?

### 4. Stay in the text longer

- Read slowly
- Re-read
- Sit with the passage

We don't need a new Bible, we need a slower one

## Conclusion: Let the Bible Be What It Is

We often want the Bible to be:

- quick
- clear
- easily summarized

But:

- It is one story
- told through many voices

If we force it into one mold:

- we miss its depth
- we miss its beauty
- we may even miss its center

## Final Invitation

- Let narrative be narrative
- Let poetry be poetry
- Let prophecy speak
- Let apocalyptic unsettle
- Let wisdom train

The Bible is not broken. And the strange parts may be the very places where Jesus teaches us how to read