

Session 1 - "Making Sense of the Bible: The Old Testament"

1.0 Introductions to Each Other / Make List of People Who Are Willing to Read Aloud

2.0 Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:103, 105, 111

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart

I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

3.0 Prayer - Open our ears, O God, to what you would have us hear. Through your holy Word, convict us, challenge us, and comfort us. Open our minds to new insights and fresh perspectives about our questions. Open our hearts to the moving of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

4.0 "The B-I-B-L-E" - don't worry - we will not sing it - we will have fun saying it.

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me.

I stand alone on the word of God. The B-I-B-L-E.

5.0 Using Your Bible

5.1 Please find the Table of Contents (may be challenging in some Bibles)

5.2 Look for maps - front, back, between the Old and New Testament

5.3 Look for introductions at the beginning of each book. Look for an outline of each book.

6.0 The Torah Section of the Old Testament - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

6.1 Genesis

How literally should we understand the book of Genesis?

6.2 Checking timeline of science with timeline of the Bible -

6.2.1 scientific - 13.77 billion years ago

6.2.2 Biblical - Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel then 2500 B.C. approximate recorded Biblical History and World History

6.2.3 2000 B.C. approximate Abram and Sarai appear

6.3 Maximalist/Conservative and Minimalist/Liberal

7.0 History - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

8.0 Poetry/Literature - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)

9.0 Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

10.0 Closing Prayer