

"...then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Your word is a lantern to our feet

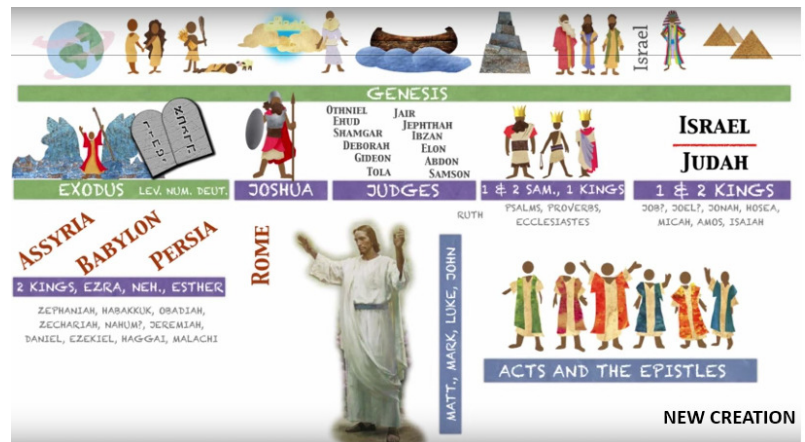
and a light upon our path.

How sweet are your words to the taste,
sweeter than honey to the mouth.

How precious are your commands for our life,
more than the finest gold in our hands.

How marvellous is your will for the world,
unending is your love for the nations.

Our voices shall sing of your promises
and our lips declare your praise.



2. Thou Whose Almighty Word

3. Discussion

- Share something you've read from the Bible this week.
- What is your favourite book in the bible and why?

4. Psalm 1 – read together

5. Speak O Lord

6. Talk 2, part 1: One Book (4 mins)

Reflection: Someone on the bus asks you "So you believe in the Bible, what's the bible about then?"
What might you say, where would you start?

- On your own
- In pairs

7. Video: The Story of the Bible

8. Read Luke 24:44-49 – Take a few minutes to look at it yourself.

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

9. Talk 2, part 2: One Story (10 mins)

10. Discussion Time (20 mins):

1. Look back over Luke 24:44-49 or the whole chapter. What thoughts did you have as you read it, what would you like to share with the group?
2. What difference does thinking of the bible as one story make to how we read it?
3. Which bits of the story do you most struggle with? Can you help each other with these?
4. What does it mean for us today that God's story is a story of mission?
5. What are you doing in your life that carries the biblical story forward today?
6. What fills you with hope as you think about the restoration of all things?

11. There is a hope

12. Roundup, Trailer, Daily Readings, Further Study.

13. Final Prayer

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

14. Further Reading

If you're interested in exploring more about the story of the Bible I recommend the following:

- Don Carson Desiring God Podcast: An overview of the whole Bible book by book (30mins)
<http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/an-overview-of-the-whole-bible>
- God's Big Picture: An introduction to the overarching story of Scripture following the theme of God's Kingdom (Vaughan Roberts) £3 available next week
- A Christian's Pocket Guide to Loving the Old Testament £1 available next week
- Bishop Richard (Chichester) Overview of the Bible at Holy Cross Woodingdean on the evening of Tuesday 28th March - 7.30pm.

15. For reflection at home:

Maybe take one of these passages each day and give thanks to God for what how each part builds the story of God's eternal kingdom from Creation to New Creation under his King.

- 17/3 Genesis 1:1-2:3
- 18/3 Romans 1:18-32
- 19/3 Genesis 12:1-5, 17:1-8
- 20/3 2Samuel 7:11-16
- 21/3 Ezekiel 34
- 22/3 Hebrews 11:39-12:3
- 23/3 Revelation 22:1-7