

What is the Bible? (Answers from Rob Bell, others, and you!)

FCCLA Seeker's Class - Fall 2017

Book we will be reading from: *What is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* by Rob Bell

We will also be reading an article from another writer each week. Printed copies are available the week before, and all articles are linked here: <http://jlharmon.com/bible>

Schedule:

October 15: What *is* the Bible?

October 22: Looking beyond our first impressions

What is the Bible? chapter 10: "Turning the Gem" pp. 79-82

(recommended also chp. 9 pp. 71-78)

"Interpreting the Bible in a Non-Biblical World" by the Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D.

October 29: (no meeting – Sunday Forum on the Protestant Reformation)

November 5: The Good Samaritan

What is the Bible? chapter 19: "He Can't Even Say His Name" pp. 139-144

"Go and do Likewise" by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

November 12: What does the Bible say to us...today?

What is the Bible? chapter 28 "Why Americans Often Miss Major Themes of the Bible" pp. 211-216

"Theology as Survival" by Rev. Broderick Greer

November 19: Where do we go from here?

What is the Bible? chapter 41 "What's the Best Question to Ask When You're Reading the Bible?" pp. 289-292

"United by the Word: Finding common ground in lectio divina" by Stephen J. Binz

Video: "Lectio Divina: How to Pray through the Bible" by Christina Miller

What is the Bible?
FCCLA Seeker's Class - October 15

Our main question today: what *is* the Bible?

The word of God	Relevant	A library/collection
Inerrant	Obsolete	A book
Infallible	Sacred	Universal
Literally true	Written by humans	History book
Metaphorically true	Contradictory	Poetry
Myth	Violent	Instructions
Ancient	Confusing	Divinely inspired
Timeless	Holy	Inspirational

- 66 (canonical) books
- 40 (traditional) authors
- Hebrew Bible written down from the 700s BCE to the 100s BCE
- New Testament written down c. 50 CE to 110 CE

1. What makes the Bible different from other books?
2. What makes the Bible different from the scriptures of other religions?
3. Can (or should) there be a single authoritative interpretation of the Bible?
4. Whose interpretation of the Bible should we trust?
5. What tools do we have for interpreting the Bible?
6. Why should we (21st century progressive Christians in Los Angeles) read the Bible?