

**axis**



A CONVERSATION KIT ON  
**THE BIBLE**

# BIBLE

## 1 What is the Bible?

What is the Bible?

The Bible has two major parts, the **Old Testament** and **New Testament**, and contains **66** books.

“The Bible was written for us, not necessarily to us.” What do you think this means?

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart sum it up well, “Because the Bible is God’s message, it has eternal relevance; it speaks to all humankind, in every age and in every culture. Because it is the word of God, we must listen -- and obey. But because God chose to speak his word through human words in history, every book in the Bible also has historical particularity; each document is conditioned by the language, time, and culture in which it was originally written.

## 2 The Here and Now

**Exegesis**  
=  
**Then and There**  
**Hermeneutics**  
=  
**Here and Now**

Although everyone employs **exegesis** at times, and although quite often such **exegesis** is well done, it nonetheless tends to be employed only when there is an obvious problem between the **biblical texts** and **modern culture**. Whereas it must indeed be employed for such texts, we insist that it is the first step in reading **EVERY** text.

- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

There is no purely **objective** biblical interpretation. This is not postmodern **relativism**. We believe truth is truth. But there’s no way around the fact that our **cultural** and **historical** context supply us with the habits of mind that lead us to read the Bible differently than **Christians** in other cultural and historical contexts.

- Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes

## 3 The Bible is Weird

What are some uncomfortable things you’ve read or heard about the Bible?

Where in the Bible is a good place to start reading it?

Cherry-picking the uncomfortable parts of the Bible is just as flawed as cherry-picking the comforting parts.

## 4 Themes

Try to sum up the Bible in one sentence.

Who are your favorite “Chosen One” characters?

“This is why Christianity has always had, as it’s sole focus, the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”  
Why does this matter to us today?