

## **Week Two – *What About...The Bible?***

**Luke 24:13-27**

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. When was a time you had something you said or wrote taken out of context? How did that incident complicate your life?
2. Did you know that Psalm 14:1 says, “There is no God”? It’s true! But now, look up that verse and read it for yourself. How does the context change the meaning?
3. It’s important to always keep in mind the context of the Bible. What would you tell somebody else if asked what the main “point” of the Bible is?
4. Now read John 5:36-40. What does Jesus say is the main point of the Scriptures?
5. And what does Jesus explicitly say is the *wrong* thing to “search the Scriptures” for?
6. The Bible’s main job is to point us to the person of Christ. But what other things have you used the Scriptures for instead? (e.g. morality, prosperity, winning arguments, etc.)
7. End your FIFTEEN by confessing how you have used the Bible for things besides knowing Jesus better. Ask God to connect you anew to the person of Jesus Christ through the Scriptures.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. What kinds of rules are healthy to have toward your relationships with other people?
9. What kinds of rules end up choking the life out of relationships?
10. In Day One, we read how the main point of the Bible is to point us toward Jesus (John 5:39), although some people think of it primarily as a rule book. For example, read Ephesians 5:18. What rule have some Christians lived by because of this verse?
11. Now read Luke 7:33-35. How did some people’s morality challenge their ability to connect with Jesus?
12. Think about the moral rules that you live by. In what ways do they help focus and strengthen your connectedness to Jesus Christ? In what ways do they become a distraction from your relationship with Christ?

13. What adjustments might you need to make to reprioritize your connection with Jesus over going-through-the-motions rule following?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to expose where your morality has gotten stale. Ask God to revitalize his relationship with you.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

15. In your experience, if someone has a history of bad behavior, how likely is it for them to suddenly change their actions? Conversely, if someone has built a reputation of honor, how much easier is it for you trust them in the future?
16. In that sense, how important are the historical sections of the Bible?
17. In Day One, we read how the main point of the Bible is to point us toward Jesus (John 5:39), although some people think of it primarily as a history book. For example, what do you think is the point of the detail given in Mark 15:21?
18. The resurrection story of Jesus is littered with eyewitnesses and historically verifiable details. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-6. What credibility is Paul establishing here?
19. And then Paul makes one of the most important conclusions in all of Scripture. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19. What hinges on the historical reality of Christ's resurrection?
20. How does the historicity of the whole Bible help reinforce the hope we have in Christ?
21. As you end your FIFTEEN, give God thanks and praise that he used the Bible's historical accuracy to help bolster our own trust in his promises. Spend some time thanking God for how he has historically worked to save and bless you throughout your own life.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

22. People of all faiths have found wisdom in the teachings of Gandhi, Jesus Christ, Buddha, and Mohammed. What, in your opinion, makes the Bible different as a source of wisdom?
23. Check out the ancient "Code of Hammurabi" at this website: <http://www.wright.edu/~christopher.oldstone-moore/Hamm.htm>. What does Law 196 say?
24. Now read Exodus 21:23-25. How similar is this biblical law to Hammurabi's?

25. Based on this sample, how does the Bible compare to other ancient wisdom literature?
26. But now see how Jesus changes the game! Read Matthew 5:38-45. What higher wisdom does Jesus teach than “eye for an eye”?
27. Does God treat us with “eye for an eye” judgment? What kind of merciful judgment does Jesus offer instead?
28. As you conclude your FIFTEEN, ask God to reveal to you his higher wisdom (James 1:5), a wisdom that he reveals to us through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

29. The Bible is made up of a lot of genres that point to Jesus—a law book, history, wisdom literature. But does it sound natural or odd to you to think of the Bible as the genre of “love letter”?
30. Read Song of Solomon 1:1-4. Is this a part of Scripture that you’ve read before? How well do you think this matches (or doesn’t match) with other portions of the Bible?
31. Song of Solomon doesn’t just represent the “erotica” portion of the Bible. It—along with the other genres—is *also* pointing us to Jesus! What truths about God do you think we can learn from the romantic portions of the Bible?
32. Or what kind of love does God attribute to himself in Zephaniah 3:17?
33. Read 1 John 4:7-12. What does John describe as the ultimate attribute of God?
34. Based on these passages we’ve read today, how does God feel about YOU specifically? What kind of relationship does Jesus want to have with you?
35. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer, thanking God for how much he loves you and delights in you. Let the words of the Bible reinforce that it is a love letter meant especially for you.