

1. The Bible is commonly understood as being a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We can benefit from understanding the Bible with another metaphor: the Bible is like a \_\_\_\_\_ library.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ become even more valuable after we no longer \_\_\_\_\_ . 1 Pet. 1; 2 Pet. 1; 1 John 1
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ we have the Bible. Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 1:1-3; John 20; Acts 1:1-11
5. The New Testament is filled with “\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_” of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

So, what is “church” or “the Church”?

1. \_\_\_\_\_: an assembly; a gathering of people; the “\_\_\_\_\_” ones.
2. The Church: a local and global \_\_\_\_\_ of people who are \_\_\_\_\_ to respond to Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ . (As concrete, local gatherings: the book of Acts and most of the NT letters. As local but with an expanded focus on something global/cosmic: Col. 1; Eph. 1.)
3. Something to talk about later: “What is \_\_\_\_\_ experience with church and what I \_\_\_\_\_ it’s supposed to be?”

Let’s return to the Bible:

1. This our \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a. We view it admirably, \_\_\_\_\_, but oddly close.
  - b. We’re \_\_\_\_\_ by the tension. We’re \_\_\_\_\_ with the dysfunction. We’re \_\_\_\_\_ by the success of \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - c. We instinctively know the purpose isn’t to \_\_\_\_\_ every picture because, instead, we’re marveling at actual \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Thess. 2
  - d. We \_\_\_\_\_ our favorites, which reveal something about us. Matt. 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37
  - e. We continue to have \_\_\_\_\_ because we \_\_\_\_\_ . John 14:15-27; Rom. 5-8

## TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What idea from the message helped you the most?

What was the most challenging part in the message for you?

When you see a Bible, what generally comes to mind about what it is? What is your relationship to it?

Why is it helpful to have the Bible commonly explained as not only one unified book, but as a library of books with one unified meta-narrative?

Pull out your phones and scroll through your photo library. Maybe have everyone in your group share any picture and the connected story or moment. Now, think about the Bible with the metaphor of a photo library. What comes to mind through this lens?

Why is it important to recognize that our New Testament wasn’t written until AFTER (many years later, in fact) Jesus’ resurrection and the rapid growth of the Church?

What is your experience with church/the Church and what you believe it’s supposed to be? Looking at the sermon’s provided definition, what do you take from key phrases like “local and global,” “movement of people,” and “learning to respond to Christ”?

Return to the idea of the Bible, but now more personalized: what happens when we come to the Bible as our treasured family album?

This week’s challenge: try reading through parts of the New Testament as if it were your family’s treasured album. When you return next week, consider sharing if you had any new breakthroughs or if the Holy Spirit impacted you differently.

1. The Bible is commonly understood as being a LIBRARY.
2. We can benefit from understanding the Bible with another metaphor: the Bible is like a PHOTO library.
3. PICTURES become even more valuable after we no longer HAVE THE PERSON. 1 Pet. 1; 2 Pet. 1; 1 John 1
4. The RESURRECTION of Jesus is the ONLY REASON we have the Bible. Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 1:1-3; John 20; Acts 1:1-11
5. The New Testament is filled with “PHOTOS/PICTURES” of Christ and the CHURCH.

So, what is “church” or “the Church”?

1. *EKKLESIA*: an assembly; a gathering of people; the “CALLED OUT” ones.
2. The Church: a local and global MOVEMENT of people who are LEARNING to respond to Christ, RISEN FROM THE DEAD. (As concrete, local gatherings: the book of Acts and most of the NT letters. As local but with an expanded focus on something global/cosmic: Col. 1; Eph. 1.)
3. Something to talk about later: “What is MY experience with church and what I BELIEVE it’s supposed to be?”

Let’s return to the Bible:

1. This our FAMILY ALBUM.
  - a. We view it admirably, DISTANCED, but oddly close.
  - b. We’re CONNECTED by the tension. We’re CONFRONTED with the dysfunction. We’re CHALLENGED by the success of THEIR STORIES.
  - c. We instinctively know the purpose isn’t to RECREATE every picture because, instead, we’re marveling at actual LIFE. 1 Thess. 2
  - d. We CHOOSE our favorites, which reveal something about us. Matt. 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37
  - e. We continue to have BREAKTHROUGHS because we ACTUALLY HAVE THE PERSON. John 14:15-27; Rom. 5-8

## TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What idea from the message helped you the most?

What was the most challenging part in the message for you?

When you see a Bible, what generally comes to mind about what it is? What is your relationship to it?

Why is it helpful to see commonly have Bible explained as not only one unified book, but as a library of books with one unified meta-narrative?

Pull out your phones and scroll through your photo library. Maybe have everyone in your group share any picture and the connected story or moment. Now, think about the Bible with the metaphor of a photo library. What comes to mind through this lens?

Why is it important to recognize that our New Testament wasn’t written until AFTER (many years later, in fact) Jesus’ resurrection and the rapid growth of the Church?

What is your experience with church/the Church and what you believe it’s supposed to be? Looking at the sermon’s provided definition, what do you take from key phrases like “local and global,” “movement of people,” and “learning to respond to Christ”?

Return to the idea of the Bible, but now more personalized: what happens when we come to the Bible as our treasured family album?

This week’s challenge: try reading through parts of the New Testament as if it were your family’s treasured album. When you return next week, consider sharing if you had any new breakthroughs or if the Holy Spirit impacted you differently.