



Applying What We're Learning From: How to Read the Bible



Perspective on the Bible Project's Approach

1. From "What is the Bible?" – What do you learn about their approach?

Written in ancient Hebrew and Aramaic over the span of more than 1000 years, the TaNaK contains 24 books (39 in the Christian count *). The books emerge from the history of ancient Israel. They tell of their birth as a nation, their history in the land (called Israel-Palestine today), exile from it, return, and their eventual rebuilding around the city of Jerusalem. Furthermore, it is the story of Israel's origin as Abraham's family, how God promised to bless all nations through him via a messianic king—who one day would come.

2. From "About Us" on the Website – What do this tell you about their approach?

The *How to Read the Bible* series walks through each literary style found in the Bible, and how each uniquely contributes to the overall whole. While the Bible is one unified story, it cannot all be read in the same way, as each literary style lives by its own rules and structure; this we will explore in detail in each video.

The Bible can be broken into several categories of writing. Approximately 43% of the Bible is made up of narrative, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly 33% of the Bible is poetry, including songs; reflective poetry; and passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining 24% of the Bible is prose discourse, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay.

3. From an Interview with Pastor Tim – What do this tell you about their vision?

AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM MACKIE OF THE BIBLE PROJECT

January 11, 2016



Daniel Melvill Jones

We're not trying to replace people's experience with the Scriptures. I think we are trying to provide a tool that makes them coherent, understandable, and approachable. If anything, one of my goals for the videos is that someone watching them goes, "Oh, I want to go read the book of Genesis!" But at the same time, the Scriptures are united to living church communities that are themselves being shaped by the Scriptures too, so there is that ecclesial element of encountering Scripture within the web of relationships of other disciples.

I'm a huge fan of people not trying reading the Bible on their own. I think you can do so, but we only stand to be enriched and helped when we read them in community. So I think the videos are a way of reading the Bible in community and helping give people tools. Nothing replaces a community of disciples learning to follow Jesus, immersing themselves in the scriptures, and being a people of the scriptures. That's an irreplaceable factor. So in that sense, we are creating a tool that helps people do what is the most important thing, but it's also a form of outreach. We are trying not to use any Christian lingo in order to make it understandable to anybody.

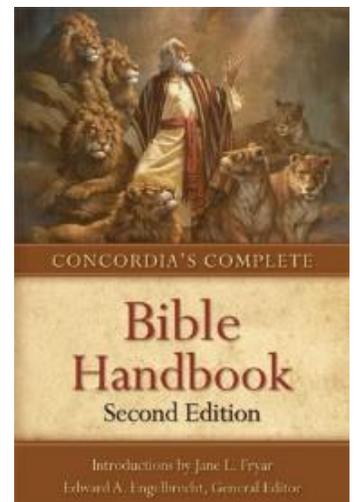
Video – follow along with the poster

Overview Using *Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook*

p. 437

Into 1, 2, and 3 John

- How does John picture Jesus?
 - What would guess that this title means?
What does it emphasize about Jesus?



p. 437

These Epistles at a Glance

- How does John refer to himself in these letters?
 - What does this emphasize for his readers?
 - BONUS: How does John refer to himself in his Gospel?

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These Epistles at a Glance (continued)

- Write down the simple words that John uses in his Gospel and the Epistles.
(These words will be important for our next step today).

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How can I best grow in grace as I read 1, 2, and 3 John?

- Why is John's "simple" message so challenging for us to live out?

1 John in the Lectionary

Sections of 1 John are featured over the course of these weeks of Easter (Year B) in what is called *lectio continua* (continued lections). The Church Fathers designed the lectionary to walk through major selections from an Epistle during certain parts of the Church Year in order to help the congregation become familiar with the book and its themes.

We will consider the selections that Pastor plans to use for his sermons.

- **What themes or other background info have we learned that appear in these passages?**
- **How might that inform how Pastor approaches preaching about these texts?**
- **Where might the language/approach of the Bible Project help with explaining a text?**
- **Where does a theme “hit” you personally as a disciple, helping you grow in faith?**

4th Sunday of Easter – April 22

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

6th Sunday of Easter – May 6

1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Celebration of the Ascension (7th Sunday of Easter) – May 13

1 John 5:9–15

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.