



How (Not) to Read the Bible - Unicorns

What is your biggest question surrounding the Bible? How have you tried to answer it?

The King James Version of the Bible mentions unicorns 9 times. Had you ever noticed that before? How did that realization impact your attitude towards the Bible?

Why can simple pictures with a few words be so impactful on us?

4 Bible Study Guardrails

1. The Bible is a library, not a book.

How might seeing the Bible as a library rather than a book help someone approach it differently?

The Atheists' Unicorn of Fantasy	The Biblical Unicorn of Reality
	
<p>THE ATHEISTS' FANTASY a mythical animal typically represented as a horse with a single straight horn projecting from its forehead.</p>	<p>ORIGIN OF 'UNICORN' Middle English: via Old French from Latin unicornis, from uni- 'single' + cornu 'horn', translating Greek monokerōs</p>
<p>Source: Oxford Dictionary</p>	<p>Source: Oxford Dictionary</p>

What do you think about when you reflect on the diversity of authors, languages, cultures, times, and places that comprise Scripture and yet it maintains the same continuity concerning Christ?

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2. The Bible was written for us, not to us.

Read and reflect on LifePoint's Statement of Belief regarding Scripture:

We believe in and accept the whole authority of Scripture

We believe that the entire Bible is fully inspired by God, that it is His perfect Word and as such, it is entirely trustworthy as our guide for truth, faith, life, marriage, and salvation. We hold a high view of the Scriptures and its authority in our lives.

2 Tim 3:15-17 NLT

15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

How have you found this to be true?

We have to stop looking to the Bible like we look to Google, it is short sighted and confuses our faith. Has your approach to scripture ever caused confusion on your journey? How did you overcome that?

Discuss the following statements:

We have to read the text for what it is, not what we want it to be.

We have to read as it is written, without trying to make it say what we want it to say.

We have to stop and ask: "Who was this Bible verse written to and why?"

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3. Never read a Bible verse.

If there was one bit of wisdom, one rule of thumb, one single skill I could impart, one useful tip I could leave that would serve you well for the rest of your life, what would it be? What is the single most important practical skill I've ever learned as a Christian? Here it is; never read a Bible verse. That's right, never read a Bible verse. Instead, always read a paragraph at least.

- Greg Koukl, *Stand to Reason*

Every Bible verse is part of a bigger story, and every story has a timeline. How has understanding more about the timeline helped you?

Have you ever changed your understanding of a Bible verse based on a deeper understanding of it's context?

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4. All of the Bible points to Jesus.

How do you see Christ throughout the Non-Gospel portions of the text?

How can we support each other as we strive to know more about God's Word?