

Six Essential Lessons

Lesson 2: The Bible | Finding Contemporary Truth in Ancient Scripture

STUDY GUIDE

1. Did you grow up in a faith tradition that honored Scripture? If so, how has that affected your current view of Biblical authority?
2. If Scripture is understood to be inspired (“God-breathed”), what does that mean to you?
3. A common phrase heard today is “the Bible teaches _____.” Is this an accurate assessment of how we should approach Scripture? Should the Bible be seen as a textbook, or perhaps as something else?
4. The Bible was written not by the finger of God on stone tablets, but by the hands of men. To what extent does the Bible’s human character (voice, historical setting, cultural context, etc.) affect your understanding of Scriptural authority?
5. Until the Protestant Reformation which began in the Sixteenth Century, authority lay primarily in the Church’s leadership, not in Scripture. Does the stance of the Church’s (or denomination’s) leadership still carry authority? Should it, or should it not?
6. The origins of our Scriptures are complex and in some cases, controversial, reflecting both claims of divine authorship and human choices. Does this diminish, or enhance, your view on the importance of Scripture? Why or why not?
7. Should one’s interpretation of Scripture reflect changes in society, scientific understanding, or trends in Biblical scholarship? Why or why not?