



COKESBURY
STUDENTS

NEXT>STEP

CONFIRMATION

NOVEMBER 2017

The Bible

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

In one sentence answer this question: **What is the Bible?**

WHAT THE UMC SAYS ABOUT THE BIBLE

"The Holy Bible – We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation."

The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline

FOLLOW ALONG

1. The Bible is a _____. (Biblios)
2. The Library of Faith that is the Bible has _____ books.
3. The Bible was written by _____ over _____.
4. The first part of the Bible is called the _____. It was first written in _____. There are _____ books in this section.
5. The second part of the Bible is called the _____. It was first written in _____. There are _____ books in this section.
6. John Wesley said he was a person of _____.

"It is not right human thoughts about God that form the content of the Bible, but right divine thoughts about us. The Bible tells us not how we should talk with God, but what God says to us. Not how we find the way to God, but how God has sought and found the way to us. Not the right relation in which we must place ourselves, but the covenant which God has made with all who are Abraham's spiritual children and which has been sealed once and for all in Jesus Christ."

—Karl Barth

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Look back at the quote from the Book of Discipline. What should be the true guide for our faith in Jesus? Do you consider that to be YOUR PERSONAL guide, or is it just more of a book sitting quietly on a shelf?
2. Is it easy to assume TRUTH and FACTS are the same thing? When you read the Bible, are you more interested in finding TRUTH or counting FACTS?
3. Can we only use a literal (meaning, "by the exact words") approach to interpreting the Bible? Or is there another path to understanding scripture?
4. How do we translate scripture to life and experience? How does the Bible guide you in loving God and neighbor, and in living a life of faith, hope, and love?
5. Let's try this one again, in one sentence answer this question: What is the Bible?

The whole purpose of the Bible, it seems to me, is to convince people to set the written word down in order to become living words in the world for God's sake. For me, this willing conversion of ink back to blood is the full substance of faith."

— Barbara Brown Taylor



Take a few moments for personal reflection and write down your thoughts here. Maybe you're left with a question, really liked a new fact or idea, or want to pray about something. Whatever you want, this space is yours. Use it!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.