

## **International Conversation Cafe**

Bible Topic: Why Read the Bible?

### **Have you ever wondered why people want to read the Bible?**

Here are some reasons why people read the Bible.

1. It is the world's best-selling book.
2. There are so many types of literature, from poetry to biography to history.
3. Lots of people read it.
4. It might be helpful to understand Western history and culture.
5. It offers good advice.
6. Some feel it improves English skills.
7. Others want to prove or disprove it.
8. Some want to understand who God is and how he relates to people.

*What would you like to gain from reading the Bible?*

### **Helpful Facts about the Bible**

1. The Bible is a collection of books. It has two major parts; the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word "testament" means agreement or promise.
2. This collection of books was written by about 40 men.
3. The books were written between 1500 BC and AD 96. By AD 175, the books were collected and by AD 397, the church approved them as the Word of God.
4. It has many styles of literature: poetry, drama, history, proverbs, personal letters and messages, and autobiography.
5. It is the story of a loving God seeking a relationship with people.
6. Christians believe that God used people to write His words. Throughout the centuries, people recognized these writings as special. They preserved them, read and studied them, and even died for them.
7. God's word helps us. Psalm 119: 105 "Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."

## What are the Differences Between the Old and New Testaments?

### Old

39 books  
written in Hebrew  
completed by about BC 433  
about the Jewish nation,  
Israel

### New

27 books  
written in Greek  
completed by about 95 AD  
about Jesus and the beginning of  
the church

### What you can find in the Scriptures?

Ancient history- Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua

Poetry- Psalms, Chapter 23 is especially well known.

Wisdom- Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

The life of Jesus Christ- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

God's love- John 3:16, I John 4:7-21

*What looks interesting to you?*

When you read the Bible, there are some important questions to keep in mind.

*Who wrote the book, to whom was it written, and when?*

*What is the main thought from the section you read?*

*What questions does the passage bring to mind?*

*What does it say about people?*

*What does the passage teach about God?*

*Does the passage change your attitudes about God, yourself, or others? How so?*

The following passage is from the book of Proverbs, chapter 3. Proverbs was written by Solomon, king of Israel, to his son. After you read it see how many of the previous questions you can answer.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.

Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.  
Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.