



Bible

Date: Sunday 14th November

Speaker: Mike Gowen (South) & Adam Pipe (City Centre)

Key Verses: 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Talk Summary:

1. The Bible

The Bible is not just one book but a **library of books**. Bible like other books has human authors but it is also **God's truth in human words**. It is *inspired* breathed out by God (2 Timothy 3:15-17). The Bible has a Big Story: The Kingdom of God – God's saving rule. The centrepiece and climax of God's saving rule is Jesus. **The point of Scripture is ultimately to introduce people to Jesus.**

2. The Big Story

- i. Creation.
- ii. Fall.
- iii. Rescue (Israel – Jesus – Church).
- iv. Renewal.

3. Being Shaped by God's Story

As we proclaim the Big Story of the Bible week by week it calls us into the family of God and helps us see all of life from the perspective of that story. Through the Bible the Holy Spirit shapes our identity as the community of King Jesus and as individual members of that community. The Bible sets out the values we should live by as a community and as individuals within that community. We are transformed into an agape community of self-giving love that lays itself down for others. We become a community shaped by resurrection power where death is defeated and the rule and reign of God breaks into the here and now. The Big Story of the Bible also shapes us as a community and as individual believers by providing us with a future orientation. We live between the now and the not yet of the Kingdom of God, yet we know how the story ends. We know that the lamb wins! That one day there will be no more death, sickness, crying or shame. Whatever you are going through at the

moment, however bleak things feel, that is not the end of the story. The Big Story of the Bible gives us hope. Jesus has defeated sin, death, sickness and evil and there is a day coming when he will return and put things right.

You are an actor in God's Big Story - Know the story - Play your part in the story - Invite others to join you on the journey - And know today that the King of Kings will reign forever.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

1. Which Bible character do you most identify with and why? (icebreaker/welcome question)
2. What stood out to you from the talk on Sunday?
3. If a non-Christian friend asked you what the Bible was about how would you explain it to them?
4. 'The Bible is God's story and is the primary way that God reveals himself to us today.' What do you find challenging about that statement? Give some examples of how God has spoken to you through the Bible.
5. How does the story of the Bible shape us as a gathered community?
6. What practical things you have found helpful for getting into the Bible?
7. We play our part in a story where we know the ending. How does this give us hope?
8. Is there anyone you could give a copy of one of the gospels to and offer to read it with them?

Pray for each other encouraging each other to receive hope, to live faithfully to the Big Story and to invite others to join us on the journey.

Witness - How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Rooted // Starts 15th Nov // 4 Mondays, online course
 - Big Church // 21st Nov at South Site, 3pm
 - Christingle All Age services // 28th Nov
 - Week of Prayer // Starts 29th Nov
 - Encounter Night // 4th Dec