

The Big Story How The Bible Makes Sense Out Of Life

[#Bible meaning of life](#) [#Life purpose Christian](#) [#Biblical worldview](#) [#Spiritual understanding](#) [#God's story human life](#)

Delve into "The Big Story" to understand how the Bible provides profound insights, purpose, and a coherent framework for making sense of life's deepest questions. Discover the Christian worldview that clarifies existence and offers spiritual understanding.

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The Big Story

How would you explain your life to a stranger? When strangers meet today, they often ask not, "What do you do?" but, "What is your story?" Everybody on the planet believes some larger story in order to make sense of the smaller story of his or her life. We want our lives to fit within a larger plot—a plot full of history, forward movement, and future. So, the better question to ask is, "What sort of story are you in?" Most people believe false stories that leave them disillusioned, enslaved, and hopeless. Secular stories of chasing success and religious stories of doing good works leave us feeling exhausted and empty. Only Christianity offers a story that's big enough to make sense of both the beauty and brokenness in our lives and in our world.

The Bible: A Story that Makes Sense of Life

'Honest, revealing insight into the bestselling book of all time.' Bear Grylls 'A stimulating and accessible survey of history's most influential book.' Tom Holland, historian and author of *Dominion* 'Personal and profound; informative and practical. If you want to experience the Bible as a rich source of guidance and hope, this book is for you.' Simon Thomas, former Sky Sports and Blue Peter presenter When we make sense of the Bible, the Bible makes sense of us. The political, social and cultural upheaval of our times can leave us feeling bewildered and wondering where to turn for trustworthy guidance. As unlikely as it may seem, could the Bible provide ancient wisdom that helps us flourish today? Join Andrew Ollerton as he explores the storyline of Scripture, connecting six major biblical events with six definitive human needs: for meaning, freedom, peace, community, love and for an ultimate home. In short, digestible chapters, Andrew reveals how the Bible story makes sense of our human story. Discover for yourself a limitless source of guidance and hope in the face of so much uncertainty. Underpinned by a depth of scholarship, the book is non-technical in style, making it accessible for the widest possible readership - including Christians and seekers interested in the Bible. The book will also provide a model for Bible communicators and church leaders wishing to engage more deeply with the relevance of the Bible in our cultural moment. Contains discussion questions for small groups, as well as suggested Bible

readings and reflection questions to accompany each chapter. The structure of the book makes it ideal to read as a Lent course. This book has been chosen for the National Big Church Read in January 2022.

Romans

'On all my travels, if I had the Gospels, Paul's letter to the Romans and Andrew Ollerton's book I would need nothing else!' Sir David Suchet With his trademark straightforward teaching style, Andrew Ollerton guides readers through Romans - one of the most theologically complex books of the Bible - to discover how an understanding of Paul's longest letter unlocks the whole story of Scripture and helps us make sense of life. It's been said that if the New Testament were the Himalayas, Paul's Epistle to the Romans would be Mount Everest. The chapters of this book therefore imagine the contents of the letter as a great mountain landscape - complex, challenging but highly rewarding. Together, we will take on the challenge of ascending to the summit, taking in the view and then descending to put it into practice on the other side. Readers will not only come away with a greater understanding of Romans, but as invigorated disciples, equipped for the adventure of life and faith, and emboldened to share the Gospel with others. Each chapter includes suggested Bible readings and questions for reflection, making this book a great choice for devotional reading. Romans is a perfect follow-up read for fans of Andrew's first book *The Bible*, those who've completed Bible Society's 'The Bible Course', or the Alpha course.

The Story

Presents a retelling of thirty-one accessible chapters arranged chronologically from Genesis to Revelation, allowing the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel.

God's Big Story: The BIGGEST Story Ever. God Wants to Fix The Broken World and Be Our Friend.

So often children know stories from the Bible but don't understand the story of the Bible as a whole, the metanarrative. This book seeks to tell the big story of the Bible in an accessible and engaging way. For very young children the pictures have been designed to tell the story without words, older children can have it read to them or, from about the age of 6 or 7 should be able to read it for themselves. Why is it important that children understand the big story of the Bible anyway? Often as children grow up, particularly if they are part of a church and/or have Christian parents, they will hear how much God loves them, that Jesus loves them; and that God loves the world. It's a great message and one I firmly believe in; but it creates a 'love bubble' which can easily burst when children start to become more aware of and engage with the world around them. A child who has grown up in this 'love bubble' might get to aged 6 or 7 and find that a pet dies, they begin to engage with news media for the first time and are surrounded by sadness; or perhaps a family member dies. Where is the God who loves them now? How could a God who loves them and is their friend let this happen? The love bubble bursts, and the risk is that children turn their back on God because they can't align what they have been taught with the world around them that they are beginning to understand. I believe children need to grow up knowing that God loves them and wants to be their friend, but also that the world is broken and not how God wants it to be. Children need to be given a lens to help them make sense of what they see and understand from the world around them. Teaching children about brokenness at the same time as love avoids the love bubble and the consequences of it bursting. God's Big Story also includes the idea of choices, the choices we make every day but also that being God's friend is a choice. Wrong choices caused the world to break but the essence of God giving choice is love. A God who wants to be our friend allows us to choose how to respond because He loves people. Children are invited to engage with the story, to make choices, on every page. At the end of the book children are invited to choose how they want to respond to what they have heard. God's Big Story aims to tell the big story of the Bible so that children have a frame of reference to fit individual Bible stories into. It also makes the foundations of the Christian faith accessible to children and lays foundations for the future.

Why Cities Matter

We live in a unique moment in history. Right now, more people live in urban centers than ever before. This means that we have an unprecedented opportunity to influence the majority of the world through the church in the city. Helping us to make the most of this moment, urban pastors Justin Buzzard and Stephen Um lay out a compelling vision for cultural engagement and church planting in our world's cities. If you're looking for motivation to maintain a commitment to the city or for guidance as you consider going all in, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of urban life that informs, instructs,

inspires, and answers questions including: Why cities are so important What the Bible says about cities How to overcome common issues and develop a plan for living missionally in the city Instead of retreating from or taking from our cities, here is a call to make the cities our home, to take good care of them, and to participate in God's kingdom-building work in the urban centers of our world.

Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students

Richard Dunn shows how to mentor today's teens by setting the pace—physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually—with sensitivity to the unique issues of adolescent development.

Getting to Know God's Word

Are you curious about the Bible? Do you want a better understanding of what it has to say? This simple overview explains the purpose of the Bible and shows how sixty-six different books tell one dramatic story. Author and Bible teacher Dennis Stevenson leverages decades of study to share the connections and highlights of the Bible. As he journeys from Genesis to Revelation, he provides the background that brings the message of God's Word into focus. In this easy-reading book, you'll encounter the characters and drama of the Bible. Section by section you'll walk through God's Word and see how the process of redemption unfolds, linking every book and bringing clarity to every story. Use this book to increase your understanding of Scripture and make your personal reading and study more impactful. In *Getting To Know God's Word* you'll gain insight into important spiritual questions: - Why did God allow sin into the Garden of Eden? - What temporary measures did God put in place and why were they inadequate for long term results? - How did the ancients view wisdom and what does it say about the meaning of life? - Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? - When was the church formed and how does it advance God's plans today? *Getting To Know God's Word* will introduce you to the Bible and show you how all sixty-six books combine to tell one story of redemption. If you want to understand the Scriptures and draw closer to God, then you'll love Dennis Stevenson's simple summary and compelling outline of the greatest book ever written. Buy your copy now and begin to understand your Bible like never before!

Nurturing Children's Spirituality

Children's spiritual development is currently a hot topic in Christian circles, as well as in other fields and disciplines such as educational psychology, medicine, developmental psychology, education, and sociology. The key question for Christian scholars and educators is "How do Christian beliefs and practices uniquely interrelate with children's spirituality?" In 2003 and again in 2006, a national conference entitled "Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives" examined children's spirituality from a distinctly Christian standpoint. This book is a collection of the best materials from the 2006 conference. The first half of the book addresses definitional, historical, and theological concerns related to spiritual development in children. The second half explores best practices for fostering spiritual growth among our children--in our homes, families, churches, Christian schools, and among special populations of children--from a wide spectrum of Christian scholars and practitioners. The volume closes with John Westerhoff's moving keynote address and Catherine Stonehouse and Scottie May's eloquent, culminating plenary address. *Nurturing Children's Spirituality* provides a rich cross section of the current research and writing by Christian scholars on children's spirituality. Contributors: Holly Catterton Allen, Michael J. Anthony, Stacy Berg, Chris J. Boyatzis, MaLesa Breeding, Marilyn Brownlee, Linda V. Callahan, Jane Carr, Mara Lief Crabtree, Karen Crozier, James Riley Estep Jr., Jeffrey E. Feinberg, Stephanie Goins, Judy Harris Helm, Dana Kennamer Hood, Sungwon Kim, Kevin Lawson, Scottie May, Marcia McQuitty, Heidi Schultz Oswald, Donald Ratcliff, Pam Scranton, Timothy A. Sisemore, Catherine Stonehouse, La Verne Tolbert, T. Wyatt Watkins, John H. Westerhoff III

The Bible Course

We live in an age of scepticism. Our society places such faith in empirical reason, historical progress, and heartfelt emotion that it's easy to wonder: why should anyone believe in Christianity? What role can faith and religion play in our modern lives? In this thoughtful and inspiring book, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller invites sceptics to consider that Christianity is as relevant now as ever. As human beings, we cannot live without meaning, satisfaction, freedom, identity, justice and hope - and Christianity provides us with unsurpassed resources to meet all these needs. Written for both sceptic and believer, *Making Sense of God* shines a light on the profound value and importance of Christianity in our lives.

Making Sense of God

This unique how to book about the Bible goes beyond simply introducing major themes. The author offers an engaging biblical understanding of the world that leads to joy, life, and wholeness, described in an insightful synthesis that enlivens the Scriptures. Brueggemann suggests that insiders to biblical faith will find energy and illumination that outsiders never guess at.

The Bible Makes Sense

'Loveday's case is that the mantle of historical truth and divine authority has placed upon the Bible an intolerable weight, crushing it as a creative work of immense imaginative and inspirational power. His argument is both fascinating and persuasive.' Matthew Parris *The Bible for Grown-Ups* neither requires, nor rejects, belief. It sets out to help intelligent adults make sense of the Bible – a book that is too large to swallow whole, yet too important in our history and culture to spit out. Why do the creation stories in Genesis contradict each other? Did the Exodus really happen? Was King David a historical figure? Why is Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus so different from Luke's? Why was St Paul so rude about St Peter? Every Biblical author wrote for their own time, and their own audience. In short, nothing in the Bible is quite what it seems. Literary critic Simon Loveday's book – a labour of love that has taken over a decade to write – is a thrilling read, for Christians and anyone else, which will overturn everything you thought you knew about the Good Book.

The Bible for Grown-Ups

Puzzled about life? Sometimes the world doesn't make sense. Things seem random and disconnected, and we wonder if there's any purpose to it all, any meaning to our lives. But what if everything could make sense? What if the pieces actually do fit together? Alex McLellan says that figuring out life is like assembling a jigsaw puzzle. You don't have to have every piece in place before you start to see the big picture. You just need enough important pieces to fit together. There are enough clues in the universe and in human experience to discern that there is an underlying order and significance to all things. McLellan explores competing views of truth and belief and examines the nature of doubt. Ultimately Christianity is reasonable because it resonates with how we see and experience the world. Even if we don't have absolute certainty, we have enough to go on to have confidence in the Christian worldview. You don't have to have all the answers. Just start putting the pieces together, and the big picture will emerge.

A Jigsaw Guide to Making Sense of the World

This volume, a tribute to John J. Collins by his friends, colleagues, and students, includes essays on the wide range of interests that have occupied John Collins's distinguished career.

Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls

Reading the Bible in a way that is as old as Scripture itself, award-winning author Mark P. Shea takes us on a "fly-over" of the biblical story from Genesis to Revelation. He shows you how to explore the literal, allegorical, moral, and analogical sense of Scripture. Whether you have been studying Scripture for years, or are encountering it for the very first time, *Making Senses Out of Scripture* is an invaluable tool that it will help you see biblical revelation afresh, as Christians have done for 2000 years.

Making Senses Out of Scripture

A layperson's guide to understanding how to read the Bible in context clarifies the Bible's key themes and shows how to apply them to daily life, through a series of everyday language conversations with today's brightest scholars. Original.

Read the Bible for Life

This book addresses critical questions facing public education at the twenty-first century.

Literacy in American Lives

How to Read the Bible Well takes on the big questions about the Bible that we've always wanted to ask. What do people mean when they say it's the Word of God? In what way, exactly? How can an ancient world text be offering supposedly timeless truths? Can we really take what "the Bible says" as

authoritative for life today? Isn't it obviously sexist and outdated? Do we have to believe in Adam and Eve, and the world being made in six days? Why did God command genocide in the Old Testament? Are people really going to burn in hell for eternity? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? And, how can we explain the Big Story of the Bible, from cover to cover, in ways that will make sense to people today? Stephen Burnhope suggests there are very good answers to all of these questions and more--once we know how to read the Bible well!

How to Read the Bible Well

The Bible can and should be an environment in which we live and move and have our being, an environment in which we are shaped by God in different and interrelated ways. As with aspects of our physical environment, we may have never noticed many elements of this spiritual environment before or may have only the vaguest sense of their influence. While we may be more familiar with certain elements, we may not realize the full extent of their influence or be too preoccupied to see how they relate to form the larger whole of how we are shaped. This book looks one-by-one at several ways in which the Bible's environment influences us as people and, in particular, shapes our beliefs, attitudes, and practices as teachers in the classroom. It is concerned with helping readers to be, at one and the same time, faithful to our common calling as educators and faithful to the Scriptures as Christians.

Bible-Shaped Teaching

In this new series - BIBLE THREADS, Keys to Understanding the Bible - Arlington McRae offers us a fresh new 21st century paradigm for how we approach the Bible and understand its essential message. The Bible presents us with a series of stories and related events. The question becomes, "How are these stories and events connected? And what are we to do with them?" The answer is found in understanding "Bible Threads". A Bible thread is the link or bridge that connects the stories and books. A Bible thread is what each story and/or book has in common with other books or stories from Genesis to Revelation. This series addresses the indispensable threads to prepare you to read your Bible enthusiastically with great understanding; and to allow you the joy of discovering other threads for yourself through your own daily Bible study. This volume offers a power packed, Jesus inspired, potentially life-changing resource as it presents the Bible to us in its simplest form. Starting at the beginning, the author walks us through a new "perspective" and a new "context" for how we understand and interpret what we read. It is designed for (a) those of us new to the Bible, and (b) those who never received a comprehensive overview of the Bible that makes sense to them. In this volume, the author lays out the structure and the over all story - the big picture - of the Bible. This presentation is designed to broaden the context for how we interpret and unify the various books and stories. At the completion of this volume, you will be encouraged to read your Bible and to study it more intelligently with much more confidence and with a satisfying sense of accomplishment.

The Bible For Beginners And The Rest of Us

Alison Siewert and her team of writers offer ideas for every aspect of drama ministry—from why it is biblical to how to direct a performance, from warm-ups for actors to how to write your own sketches. Includes 14 sketches you can reproduce in your ministry.

Drama Team Handbook

flu·en·cy / noun :the ability to speak a language easily and effectively Even if they want to, many Christians find it hard to talk to others about Jesus. Is it possible this difficulty is because we're trying to speak a language we haven't actually spent time practicing? To become fluent in a new language, you must immerse yourself in it until you actually start to think about life through it. Becoming fluent in the gospel happens the same way—after believing it, we have to intentionally rehearse it (to ourselves and to others) and immerse ourselves in its truths. Only then will we start to see how everything in our lives, from the mundane to the magnificent, is transformed by the hope of the gospel.

Gospel Fluency

Two children's spirituality experts draw on over a decade of field research to show how adults can effectively work with children to nurture their faith.

Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey

Shaped by the Bible offers sound information about the ways congregations are formed and reformed by the biblical message and the living Word. William Willimon discusses the ways Scripture can form us, reform us, and challenge us, as well as the ways we hide from, close our ears to, and evade the Bible's claim on us. As Christians, the church is where we listen as God speaks, and where we are taught to speak to God with the conviction that God hears us and cares. The supreme evidence of this divine/human dialogue is the Bible. Dr. Willimon believes that if we are truly People of the Book, our lives will reflect this—individually as well as corporately in congregational life. Willimon maintains that once congregations become confronted by the biblical message, their response will be unique in the life of the community.

Shaped by the Bible

The two key questions often levelled at fresh expressions are 'What is Church?' and 'How on earth can a fresh expression be evaluated?' In "Out of Nothing\

Out of Nothing

Which Bible passages are for Christians today and which relate only to ancient readers? Can I simply pick and choose for myself the verses I think best fit my situation? Who gets to decide? Is there a different meaning for each individual reader? What am I supposed to know to read the Bible well? Ray Lubeck has devoted his life to helping others discern for themselves God's truth in the Scriptures and to showing them how it relates to their everyday lives. Reading the Bible for a Change will guide you in how to: -Read each biblical passage in light of its literary style and larger context -Ask and explore the most fruitful questions for understanding the meaning of a passage -Avoid common interpretive mistakes -Hear God, the divine Author, speak through the Bible's human authors -Identify the life-changing truths of Scripture that apply to life today -Move beyond merely reading the Bible to being shaped by and following it Having taught for over three decades at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as in many ministry contexts, Ray values the importance of holding the interest of students of the Bible. This book is written in an accessible and engaging style, using illustrations, charts, stories, and relevant examples to help the reader grasp key concepts. The second edition has been extensively revised in light of recent scholarly developments and years of use within the classroom, incorporating substantial amounts of updates and new material. Reading the Bible for a Change will equip you with the tools to discover for yourself the life-changing truths revealed in God's word. If you begin practicing these steps, you will embark on a lifetime journey of Scripture reading that will enable you to see for yourself how captivating and transforming it is when we read the Bible on its own terms rather than on ours.

Reading the Bible for a Change, Second Edition

What is the Origin of the Universe? And the fight is on. In the red corner, Science. In the blue corner, Religion. For hundreds of years, the scuffling continues, and there's no clear winner. Now, there is, and it's neither! Think. The Origin of the Universe can only have ONE explanation. To reach that, we have to show coherent completeness between Science and God. Your faith in Science and God hangs in the balance. You can't have confidence in the Big Bang and Creation if you think there are conflicting stories. Meet the mediator and winner, Theology. Origin of the Universe makes sense out of the Creation story in Genesis 1 and the Big Bang. Based on the 7 Keys to master Biblical Hebrew, a Bible study method used by thousands, Sam will help you unlock bible meaning. You'll have sound evidence, not only that God's Word and scientific facts are coherent, but WHY there's confusion and how to resolve it. That's true theology. Sheli said, "It is something I have been searching for, a way to get past the translations and get to the deeper meaning of God's word." Whether you're an unbeliever, novice, or a knowledgeable Bible or Science enthusiast, there's a wealth of wisdom at your fingertips. Each page of Origin of the Universe will enhance your insight and become a reference you'll refer to often when studying the Bible and Science. Buy the e-book now for a foray into scripture and science.

Origin of the Universe

Christ said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). A joy-filled person is the best advertisement Christ has for a joyless world to consider his loving offer of salvation. The second fruit of the Spirit (joy) makes one an inspirational and infectious person to be around, whether you are a marriage partner, a business leader, or a next-door neighbor. The way Christ wants to accomplish this in and for us is through his two-step process as outlined in Colossians 3: •Step One: "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you" (Col 3:5). We will refer to this as

the removal of a Joy Killer. •Step Two: “Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge” (Col 3:10). We will refer to this as a Joy Maker. Each chapter is divided into these two steps. First, it begins with a removal of a Joy Killer and it is immediately followed with its replacement of a Joy Maker. With each chapter, you find an increasingly deep and rewarding joy as you pitch your tent one day closer to eternity.

Life's Joy Killers and Joy Makers

'Being Human masterfully reorientates us towards the only story that ultimately makes sense of who we are ... A remarkably timely book' Justin Brierley Who am I? Does my life matter? What will make me happy? In different ways and at different moments we all ask life's big questions about what it means to be human. But in our fast-paced, rapidly changing and often exhausting society, our cultural stories struggle to provide us with good answers. Whether on issues of gender identity or AI, climate change or racial injustice, our individual solutions to life's big challenges can often end in deep division and broken relationships. But there is another way. Being Human offers a new lens - a new way to engage with our cultural conversations using four key aspects of humanity: significance, connection, presence and participation. Digging into the foundations of our cultural stories, authors Jo Frost and Peter Lynas expose the cracks in our culture's understanding of what it means to be human. By contrasting our cultural narratives with the story of the Bible, we can see how cultural truths have been fractured and isolated from the fullness and richness of who God is and who God created us to be, and come to recognise that only in Jesus can we live truly fully human lives. Being Human is a refreshingly clear and engaging guide for everyone who wants to live out and share the good, true and beautiful biblical vision of what it is to be human. Peter and Jo co-lead the Being Human project, an initiative from the Evangelical Alliance, helping everyday Christians live out and share the biblical vision of what it means to be human.

Being Human

In this six week video study, Adam Hamilton explores the key points in his new book, Making Sense of the Bible. With the help of this Leader Guide, groups learn from Hamilton as his video presentations lead groups through the book, focusing on the most important questions we ask about the Bible, its origins and meaning.

Making Sense of the Bible [Leader Guide]

****By the Co-Creator of Immerse: The Reading Bible—ECPA 2022 Bible of the Year!**** Confused. Frustrated. Apathetic. If you feel this way about the Bible, you're not alone. The reality is that we've been set up to fail when we read the Bible, inheriting barriers and habits that make reading Scripture harder than it needs to be. Alex Goodwin, co-founder of the Institute for Bible Reading, will show you a better way forward. Discover how the physical format of our Bibles can make or break our Bible reading and how changing our reading habits can help us see that Scripture is alive. Learn how the ancient collection of writings compiled in the Bible tells a story that is still unfolding—a story God is inviting you to live into today. You'll get actionable steps toward a flourishing relationship with the Bible, a grand sense of the overall story the Bible is telling, a clear sense of how you can participate in God's work of restoration and renewal, and renewed curiosity about the Bible in ways you didn't think were possible. Alex was once intimidated (and bored) by Bible reading too! He presents his discoveries in ways that are easy to access, full of illustrations, and peppered with humor to keep you engaged. Whether reading on your own or with a church or small group, you'll be surprised at how your fascination will develop and your life will be transformed as you read and enjoy Scripture in fresh, new ways.

The Bible Reset

Is Reading the Bible the Fastest Way to Lose Your Faith? For centuries, the Bible was called "the Good Book," a moral and religious text that guides us into a relationship with God and shows us the right way to live. Today, however, some people argue the Bible is outdated and harmful, with many Christians unaware of some of the odd and disturbing things the Bible says. Whether you are a Christian, a doubter, or someone exploring the Bible for the first time, bestselling author Dan Kimball guides you step-by-step in how to make sense of these difficult and disturbing Bible passages. Filled with stories, visual illustrations, and memes reflecting popular cultural objections, *How (Not) to Read the Bible* is a lifeline for individuals who are confused or discouraged with questions about the Bible. It also works great as a small-group study or sermon series.

How (Not) to Read the Bible

You are loved by a limitless God! Yet many of us don't live our everyday lives in that reality. The "rest of us" subconsciously believe half-truths about God and ourselves, sabotaging our lives in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. For the next forty days, spend time every day discovering what life can be like in light of God's love for you. *Devo for the Rest of Us* is designed to increase your knowledge of God and help you establish habits that will keep you connected and growing in your love for him for the rest of your life. If you're new to faith or coming back to God after some time away, this book will be a perfect fit for your spiritual needs. If your faith is more established, this book will be a challenging refresher on what living for God means. It will deepen your love for God and your commitment to living the life he has for you. With these devos, you will start your days refreshed and renewed, revived and rejuvenated.

Devo for the Rest of Us

The architects of the sexual revolution won over the popular imagination because they knew the power of story. They drew together radical new ideologies, often complex and hard to grasp, and melded them into the simpler structure of narrative. Crucially, they cast narratives that appealed to the moral instincts of ordinary, decent people. This moral vision overwhelmed the church and silenced its faltering apologists. The author argues that if Christians still believe they have good news in the sphere of sexual ethics, then two big tasks lie ahead. Our first priority is to work out what has gone so badly wrong, both in our understanding and application of what the Bible teaches and the way we have presented our case to the non-churched. And then we must offer a better story, one that fires the imagination with such force that people will say, 'I want that to be true.' This book offers a confident, biblically rooted moral vision which needs to be shared with prayer and courage.

A Better Story

Fresh from a near-death experience in the hospitals of Washington, DC, Dr. Kasonso explains the essence of life in our world today, including timeless principles, inspirational stories, and a personal witness of what holds life together. Human existence is a quest to find significance. We all want our lives, our activities, our situations, and the people around us to make sense. But in our broken world, life is always juxtaposed by endless predicaments. As such, we all live through unresolved dilemmas, we all carry around unanswered questions, and we all live through unexplained events. There are always two sides to every life story what we know and we do not know, what we can reach for and what is completely beyond us, what we can live with and what we can live without. Relive the principles that make life worth living, and discover a way to find meaning in a broken world in *The Original Templates*. Dr. Kasonso beautifully captures the essence of what it means to live a life that is fully surrendered to Jesus. It is inspiring. It is encouraging. It is challenging. Read it slowly and let it shape your heart and mind in the way of Jesus. - Insoo Kim, Coauthor of *Both-And: Living the Christ-Centered Life in an Either-Or World* and Church Planter of Life Church Vancouver, BC, Canada. *The Original Templates* is a must read book for everyone who is seeking his life to be reignited with passion for the Lord and His mission. Its not just like any other book filled with words but something that is calling us back to original Christianity and be the answer to this broken world. Dr. Kasonso is an ordinary Christian with an extraordinary faith in Lord and a great inspiration to my personal walk with the Lord. - Rev Damas Kamfwa, National Director: Association of Vineyard Churches, Zambia. Dr. Kasonso, has written a book that is refreshing to the eyes which are also the windows to the soul. Kasonso takes his audience on a beautiful journey of ingenuity and along the journey, it is clear that his book lives up to its title. Get this

book, it is a must read! - Michael Badriaki, Author of When Helping Works: Alleviating Fear and Pain in Global Missions.

The Original Templates

“Women of the Word will help all who read it to find their way deeper into the Word of God without having to be seminary educated, a genius, or even an especially good student.” —Kathy Keller We all know it's important to study God's Word. But sometimes it's hard to know where to start. What's more, a lack of time, emotionally driven approaches, and past frustrations can erode our resolve to keep growing in our knowledge of Scripture. How can we, as Christian women, keep our focus and sustain our passion when reading the Bible? With over 250,000 copies sold, Women of the Word has helped countless women with a clear and concise plan they can use every time they open their Bible. Featuring the same content as the first edition, and now with added study questions at the end of each chapter, this book equips you to engage God's Word in a way that trains your mind and transforms your heart.

Women of the Word (Foreword by Matt Chandler)

We live in a fragile world. Massive economic, spiritual, and political changes seem inevitable. Realistic prospects for a sustainable peace in the Middle East are more elusive than ever. How should we view the times in which we live? Will our generation witness the return of Jesus Christ to establish His leadership on the earth? The Finishing Well Series tackles serious subjects in an easy to read style for anyone desiring to live with understanding and purpose in these perplexing and challenging times. Finishing Life Well - Following the Leadership of Jesus - is about developing a personal and communal lifestyle based on the Sermon on the Mount values of Jesus' Kingdom. The Bible is not merely an ancient book of ideas; it is God's storyline for every generation. Finishing History Well - Preparing for the Leadership of Jesus gives an overview of major biblical End Time views and their implications. Paul Hughes also touches on how other religions, the arts, and philosophies imagine how human history will end. Will Cities Finish Well? - Regional Transformation under the Leadership of Jesus is coming in 2013. Cities are where the cultures of this world battle for the highest ground. The eternal values of Jesus' Kingdom conflict with the passing values of this world. Will cities shine with bright righteousness in a darkening world before the return of Jesus?

Finishing Life Well

Read the book that has inspired hundreds of thousands to change the world and the book that shows how best to accomplish that change. Together for the first time in one volume, The Hole in Our Gospel, revised and updated, and Unfinished take us on a breathtaking journey to rediscover the critical mission of Christ in our world today and the richness of God's calling on our lives. The Hole in Our Gospel is a compelling true story of a corporate CEO who set aside worldly success for something far more significant and discovered the full power the gospel of Jesus Christ to change his own life. He uses his journey to demonstrate how the gospel—the whole gospel—was always meant to be a world-changing social revolution, a revolution that begins with us. This special edition of The Hole in Our Gospel includes a new epilogue from author Richard Stearns, a church resource guide, color charts and graphs on the needs of the world, and a concordance on poverty and justice. “Unfinished might just challenge everything you thought you understood about your Christian faith,” says Bill Hybels, senior pastor of the Willow Creek Community Church. “If every Christian read this book and took it seriously, the world would never be the same again.” Just before he left, Jesus sent his followers into the world with a revolutionary mission: to change the world by proclaiming God's truth and demonstrating his incredible love. But the single task he gave us to accomplish remains unfinished. “Just when I dare think my work is done, Rich reminds me that we are just getting started,” says Max Lucado, pastor and best-selling author. Why are we here, what is our purpose, and where do we fit in the bigger story that God is writing? How should our faith affect our careers, our money, our families, and our lives? And why does it matter? We will find our deepest purpose only when we discover the unique role God created for us to play in his unfolding story.

Stearns 2 in 1

Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?' The Book of Job The trouble with reading the Bible is that it claims to be God's autobiography, so the first thing readers must do is decide what they understand by God and how they are going to interpret his role in the rambling library of books that claim his authorship. Richard Holloway's usefully dialectical approach to this central

question will allow non-believers as well as believers to profit from a study of the most influential book in human history. The book discusses significant passages from both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and explores the evolution of the split between the two communities whose tragic consequences still reverberate powerfully today.

How to Read the Bible