

THE BIBLE *for* GROWN-UPS

LAST THINGS FIRST – WEEK 1

Small Group Time:

Most of us know some Bible stories, but very few of us know the story of the Bible. And you may be surprised to discover it's a story that doesn't actually begin in the beginning. It begins with the accounts of a few men who sat down to record the death and resurrection of Jesus. It begins with the words of his followers who were compelled to document the events that had changed everything for them—because they knew it could change everything for us.

Main Idea:

Life is a highway. It's a journey filled with twists, turns, ups, downs, potholes, construction, & other poor drivers all along the route. Every decision of our life takes us in a direction – even the small ones. All of us can look back on our past & see far too many instances in which the bad decision seemed harmless in the moment only to lead to something much worse. It's easy to get off course in life. There comes a point where we must stop and ask, "How do we keep this from happening?" That's what this series is all about.

Key Questions:

1. If you had the chance to read the personal journal of someone whose life has influenced yours, who would you choose? Why would their stories and ideas be meaningful to you?
2. How were you first introduced to the Bible? What people and ideas do you associate with that time?
3. Read **Luke 1:1-4**. Luke was a first-century Greek doctor who documented the life of Jesus. Why do you think it was unusual in ancient times for many people to write about an event? How does Luke describe his purpose in documenting Jesus' life?
4. Read **John 20:30-31**. It's possible you or someone you know left your faith because of something in the Bible. What is the "it" that you or they didn't believe? How does John describe his purpose for writing? What do you think John meant by "have life in his name"?
5. If John's account of Jesus' life was all you had, what would change about how you approach Jesus and encourage others to move toward him?

Next Steps:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?