

# ***Why's the Bible Difficult to Understand?***

## **Study Questions**

### **Getting Started**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. Life requires us to be continual learners. What are some things that you have had to learn how to use? What happens if you don't learn how to use it?
3. Have you ever had to communicate with someone with a different primary language? Was the language a barrier? How?
4. How has your world changed over the years of your life? What might be some things that would be hard for people today to understand from the past?
5. Read 1 Timothy 2:12. How could this verse be misinterpreted in today's culture? Why would that be a tendency?
6. We can joke about superstitions. Can you think of a superstition in your life? Why do superstitions become a factor in your life?
7. Read Revelation 4:7-8. What pops into your mind when you read a passage like this? Why is this hard to understand? Can you think of any similar passages of Scripture?
8. It is easy to ignore the Spiritual Gap. We looked at two passages that reminded us of the barrier to understanding God's Word. How do these barriers hinder us (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Isaiah 55:8-9)?
9. Pastor shared three reasons why you should study God's Word. Was there one that stood out to you? Why?

### **Digging Deeper**

10. There is still time to get started on the 30 Day New Testament reading. Remember the goal is to finish reading the New Testament even if it takes more than 30 days.

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## **Series: Using My Bible**

*Sunday May 4, 2014*

*“Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”*  
*Nehemiah 8:7–8 ESV*

### **I. I Need to \_\_\_\_\_ Between Me and the Bible**

#### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ Gap**

*“וְהוּא מְחַלֵּל מִפְּשָׁעֵינוּ מִדָּבָר מְעֹנֵתֵינוּ מוֹסֵר  
שְׁלוֹמֵנוּ עָלָיו וּבְחֶבְרֶתוֹ גִּרְפָּא־לָנוּ:”*

*“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”*  
*Isaiah 53:5 ESV*

#### **2. \_\_\_\_\_ Gap**

*“You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.”*  
*Deuteronomy 15:15 ESV*

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Gap**

*“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.”* Matthew 22:37–38 ESV

*“I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.”* 1 Timothy 2:12 ESV

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ Gap**

*“They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.’ Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.”* Jeremiah 5:24–25 ESV

**5. \_\_\_\_\_ Gap**

*“the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!””* Revelation 4:7–8 ESV

**6. \_\_\_\_\_ Gap**

*“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 ESV

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Isaiah 55:8–9 ESV

**II. Why Should I \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible?**

**1. God gave it for my \_\_\_\_\_**

*““The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”* Deuteronomy 29:29 ESV

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ helps me understand it**

*“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”*

*1 Corinthians 2:12–14 ESV*

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ helps me understand it**

*“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”* Ephesians 4:11–12 ESV

*“The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

*Proverbs 1:1–7 ESV*