



ABOUT

THE BIBLE



QUESTIONS

30 DEVOTIONS FOR
KIDS, TEENS & FAMILIES

TODD R.
CHIPMAN

“Todd Chipman’s *10 Questions About the Bible* is an ideal book to put in the hands of those who are new to reading the Bible. This book is faithful doctrinally and full of down-to-earth and godly advice for reading the Bible. It answers many practical questions that strike us as we come to the Bible. Most importantly, Chipman reminds us that we read the Bible to know God, to experience salvation, and to live our lives to the glory of God.”

Thomas R. Schreiner, James Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“This book is a gift to Christian parents like me. Packed into these accessible answers to crucial questions about the Bible is deep wisdom born from decades of teaching, preaching, and pastoral ministry. I hope it finds its way into the hands of many young people who discover why they can trust and treasure the Scriptures.”

Peter J. Gurry, Associate Professor of New Testament, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

“An accessible and stimulating read that asks the questions we’ve all had about the Bible and provides the uncomplicated answers we all need. This book is a gift to families and ministry leaders who want to help the next generation develop a strong and lasting love for God and his word. With relevant questions, biblically rooted answers, and guidance for thoughtful reflection, *10 Questions About the Bible* faithfully encourages readers to bring even their toughest questions to the greatest answer source.”

Miranda Renfro, Elementary Ministry Associate, Lenexa Baptist Church, Lenexa, Kansas

“I commend to you this simple, clear, and accessible guide to understanding the nature and purpose of God’s word. This is a great gift to young believers as they grow to love, appreciate, and grasp the beauty of Scripture!”

Jon Nielson, Senior Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church, Wheaton, Illinois

“This thirty-day devotional is a wonderful tool for parents and church leaders to help kids and teens see why the Bible matters. Todd Chipman tackles big theological ideas with clarity, making them understandable and practical while offering guidance on how to read and apply Scripture. Each day’s reading is just the right length—with one key truth, Scripture, prayer, and space for reflection. My prayer is that every young person who reads this book will develop a growing hunger to know God through his word.”

Judith Koene Henderson, International Resource Manager,
9Marks

“What do you get when you cross a father’s tender heart, a pastor’s holistic vision, and a theologian’s precision? You get Todd Chipman’s *10 Questions About the Bible!* Chipman knows the Bible, knows Christian theology, and most impressively, knows how kids think. This book aims boldly at kids, teens, and families, and—I experienced this firsthand while reading it to my children—Chipman hits all three marks at once with a book that is understandable, apologetic, and deep.”

Matthew E. Swale, Assistant Professor of Bible and Church Ministry, Warner University; author, *Scripture’s Use of Scripture in the Old Testament*

“*10 Questions About the Bible* is a go-to resource for the most important questions we all have about the Bible. Chipman’s conversational and friendly style makes this book a great devotional for young readers. At the same time, the way he organizes the answers to each question provides the perfect guide for parents and student ministry leaders seeking to strengthen the next generation’s confidence in God’s written word. And behind all of this is Chipman’s depth of theological insight, which is unique and invaluable in a book written for the next generation. I recommend this book for every kid and student seeking to know more about the Bible.”

Scott Donaho, Preteen Pastor, Community Bible Church,
San Antonio, Texas

**10
Questions
About
the Bible**

10 Questions

Edited by Champ Thornton

10 Questions About the Bible, Todd R. Chipman

10 Questions About Pain and Suffering, Beth M. Broom

10 Questions About Salvation, Champ Thornton

10
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**30 Devotions for Kids,
Teens, and Families**

Todd R. Chipman

 **CROSSWAY®**
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

10 Questions About the Bible: 30 Devotions for Kids, Teens, and Families

© 2026 by Todd R. Chipman

Published by Crossway

1300 Crescent Street
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

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Cover design and illustration: The Brave Union

First printing 2026

Printed in the United States of America

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Trade paperback ISBN: 979-8-8749-0061-8

ePub ISBN: 979-8-8749-0063-2

PDF ISBN: 979-8-8749-0062-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Chipman, Todd R. author

Title: 10 questions about the Bible : 30 devotions for kids, teens, and families / Todd R. Chipman.

Other titles: Ten questions about the Bible

Description: Wheaton, Illinois : Crossway, [2026] | Series: 10 questions | Audience: Ages 11–14

Identifiers: LCCN 2025026158 (print) | LCCN 2025026159 (ebook) | ISBN 9798874900618 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9798874900625 (pdf) | ISBN 9798874900632 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Bible—Juvenile literature | Bible—Devotional literature | Christian children—Prayers and devotions | Christian teenagers—Prayers and devotions | Families—Prayers and devotions | LCGFT: Literature | Devotional literature | Prayers

Classification: LCC BS539 .C45 2026 (print) | LCC BS539 (ebook) | DDC 220.6/1—dc23/eng/20251119

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025026158>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025026159>

Crossway is a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

VP 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26
15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To Judah and Haven

Contents

Series Preface *xi*

Introduction *i*

QUESTION 1

How Did We Get the Bible?

Day 1 God Reveals Himself *5*

Day 2 The Holy Spirit Worked Through Men *8*

Day 3 God's Inspired Word *11*

QUESTION 2

What Is the Point of the Bible?

Day 4 God's Truth for All Time and All People *15*

Day 5 Light for the Path *18*

Day 6 A Guide for Everyday Relationships *21*

QUESTION 3

What Will Reading the Bible Do for Me?

Day 7 Knowing God and the Purpose of Eternal Life *25*

Day 8 Aiming at the Right Goal *28*

Day 9 Community with the Faithful *31*

QUESTION 4

How Do We Apply the Bible to Our Lives Today?

- Day 10 The Context of History 35
- Day 11 Clearly Meeting Our Greatest Needs 38
- Day 12 Scripture Memory 41

QUESTION 5

How Should We Read the Bible?

- Day 13 Read the Bible as God's Word to You 45
- Day 14 Read the Bible as a Great Book 48
- Day 15 Reading Big and Small 51

QUESTION 6

How Do I Know I Can Trust the Bible?

- Day 16 The Bible and God's Character 55
- Day 17 The Bible and Our Need 58
- Day 18 The Bible and Science 61

QUESTION 7

What About the Bible and Other Religions?

- Day 19 All Religions Are Based on Ideas 65
- Day 20 Scripture as God's Word 68
- Day 21 Christianity Is the Religion of
Loving Your Enemies 71

QUESTION 8

Why Does the Bible Have Two Testaments?

- Day 22 Fulfillment in Jesus 75

- Day 23 The Marking of Time 78
Day 24 God's Desire to Be Known Personally 81

QUESTION 9

**What Should I Do About Passages
I Don't Understand (Yet)?**

- Day 25 Bible Study Resources 85
Day 26 Prayer and Humility 88
Day 27 Go with What You Know 91

QUESTION 10

Why Do Some People Reject the Bible?

- Day 28 The Bible Reads the Reader 95
Day 29 Peer Pressure 98
Day 30 Reading Is Work 101

Key Words About the Bible 105

10 Questions About the Bible (with Answers) 109

Series Preface

Jesus loved questions.

If you open your Bible and read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (the Gospels), you can count over three hundred places where Jesus asked questions and over one hundred times where he answered questions.

So if you bring questions to Jesus, you've come to the right place. The Lord invites all of us to pursue him with our questions, and he will answer. "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened" (Matt. 7:8).

You may have tons of questions, but the ten questions in this book will get you started. The *answers* to those ten questions are given in three daily devotional readings—three days for each question. These readings take you to the Bible, the word of God, where you can find answers to your questions. And these answers are all listed at the end of the book.

You can use this book however you like. You can skip straight to the list at the end. Or you can devour all thirty devotional readings at once, though it might take a few hours. You can read through all ten questions in order—one reading per day. Or your family could read one devotion together, perhaps at breakfast before the day or in the evening after dinner.

Find a way that works for you. But what's most important is that you listen to God's word. Whatever question is on your mind, let Jesus provide the answer through his word. If you're going to find, you must seek.

Ask him, and he will answer.

Champ Thornton

Introduction

I wrote this book so that you can learn about the most important book ever written, the Bible. Different terms, including *Scripture*, sometimes refer to the Bible. The Old and New Testaments are the two parts of Scripture. Within those two parts, God has given us sixty-six books. All of these fit together as Scripture. And we can see a common theme in Scripture: God's desire to reveal himself as King of the universe and Savior of his people.

You might have questions about the Bible, including:

- Why does the Bible have these two Testaments and so many smaller books?
- What should I do about parts of Scripture I don't understand?

If you have questions like these (and I hope you do!), you have come to the right place. In the following pages, I ask ten questions. Each question is answered in three parts so that you can think about the ideas more deeply.

Many of these questions are for both your mind and your heart.

- How do I know I can trust the Bible?
- What will reading the Bible do for me?
- Why do people reject the Bible?

God has spoken to us in his word, Scripture, and I want to help you grasp all God has for us in it. I am sure I will not answer all your questions here. So let this be just the first book you read about Scripture. And always be reading God's word! He is faithful, and his word is true. My prayer for you is that Scripture will be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path (Ps. 119:105).

I wish to thank Champ Thornton for inviting me to participate in this series and the team at Crossway for their careful stewardship of this project. Quality is not lost on the work they do. I am grateful for my wife Julie's loving support as I worked on this project. Along the way several students at the Master's Community Church (SBC) read drafts or offered comments, including Rosie, Austin, KJ, Keith, Dustin, Silas, Kamryn, Matthias, Hailey, and Taylor. Thank you! I am also grateful for colleagues at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who cultivate an atmosphere of writing for the church.

Question 1

How Did We Get the Bible?

DAY 1

God Reveals Himself

When you meet someone new, how do you introduce yourself? You might describe your family, hobbies, and favorite foods. If you design buildings or write stories, you might introduce yourself by showing pictures of buildings you've sketched or passing out copies of your books. You can get to know people through what they enjoy, do, and say.

How does God introduce himself? God wants you to get to know him in several ways. The Bible tells us what they are. First, God shows what he's like in creation. In Psalm 19, the psalmist (King David) describes how God revealed himself in the creation of the universe (19:1–6). Have you ever stood on the beach or on top of a mountain? David writes as if he were at one of those places. We see God's power in mountain peaks, ocean waves, and so much more. But you can't hear God speak to you in creation, so the created world is only the beginning of how God reveals himself.

Second, Psalm 19:7–14 states that God reveals himself to us in Scripture. He speaks to us in the Bible so we might have a personal relationship with him. Scripture is God's complete revelation of himself to us for salvation. At the beginning of Revelation, the apostle John writes about Scripture: "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed

Revelation

God showing himself or his plans through the world he created, the words of Scripture, or the Son he sent.

are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near” (Rev. 1:3). Guess how John concludes Revelation? Yes, by writing about Scripture. In Revelation 22:18–19, John warns that adding words to or taking words away from the prophecy of this book will bring severe consequences. And that prin-

ciple can be extended to all Scripture (Deut. 4:2; 12:32).

Third, God has revealed himself even more personally. He’s shown us an up-close view of himself through Jesus. Jesus is God’s Word made flesh. The apostle John begins his Gospel by stating, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:1–4). In ancient times, God spoke in his word through the prophets, but in Jesus God has come near (Heb. 1:1–2). How do we learn more about Jesus? We get to know Jesus in Scripture.

So, how did we get the Bible? *God chose to reveal himself personally in his word.*

DAY 2

The Holy Spirit Worked Through Men

Do you have a favorite superhero movie? Many superhero movies feature a main character who is chosen for a special mission. Sometimes that person is just an ordinary man or woman—until some event happens that requires a special role. These characters receive powers or abilities that help them complete their mission.

In a similar way, God chose the authors of Scripture for a mission. They were just people like anyone else. Then they received the special influence and aid of the Holy Spirit to complete a task. The Holy Spirit helped them write down the works they'd seen God do or the words they'd heard him speak. He guided the biblical authors so what they wrote was what he wanted them to say to their readers. Let's look at a few of these human authors of Scripture.

God revealed himself to Moses and called him to lead Israel out of Egypt. Near the end of his life, Moses wrote down all God had done for Israel and all God's instructions for his people (Deut. 31:24). When Moses died, Joshua took his place as the leader of Israel. God told Joshua, "Be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you" (Josh. 1:7).

David fought Goliath, ruled Israel, and won many battles. He also wrote some of the songs in God's word. Near the end of his life, David said:

The Spirit of the LORD
speaks by me;
his word is on my
tongue. (2 Sam. 23:2)

Human Authorship

God's revelation
of himself to men,
who wrote his word
through their words.

David also wrote many of the psalms so we would know of God's work in his heart and life.

God appeared to the apostle Paul in Acts 9, and Paul wrote most of the New Testament letters to churches so they could know what God had taught him about Jesus. Paul wrote about what God did for him and what God wanted him to tell all followers of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit guided some men as they read and studied history. When Luke wrote his Gospel about Jesus, he looked at other books written about Jesus to see what those books said. Luke began by stating, "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught" (Luke 1:1-4).

Luke included some of what he heard from people like the apostle Paul. Here is what is important: The Holy Spirit inspired the words Luke wrote so that he wrote just what God wanted us to know.

So how did we get the Bible? *God chose to reveal himself personally in his word by appearing to men and guiding them by the Holy Spirit.*

PRAYER

God, thank you for choosing to reveal yourself in a way people can understand. Thank you for using people to write your word so that we can read and understand it and know you forever.

REFLECT

Why is it important that we have Scripture only from people God chose?

DAY 3

God's Inspired Word

Have you ever been in a play? What role did you have? How did you know what to do or say? It can be scary to remember all your lines. But it might be even scarier if there were no lines!

What if the author of the play told you all about the story, your character, and what he wanted the play to be about? And what if he then told you to go on stage and make up your own lines? Well, that'd be really hard and pretty terrifying!

But what if the author could somehow also guide the thoughts in your head? What if he brought all the right things to your mind so that when you spoke, the words you decided to say fit what the author had planned?

This is similar to how the Bible came to be written. The apostles Peter and Paul said that God guided the biblical authors so they wrote just what he would have written. The words of Scripture are the words of the Holy Spirit of God; he inspired them.

Paul told Timothy that God inspired the words of the Old Testament writers: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17). Those who wrote the Old Testament recorded the works they had seen God do and the

Inspiration

The Holy Spirit's guidance of the biblical authors in their lives and times to write what he would have them say to their readers.

words they'd heard him say. The Holy Spirit guided them, so the authors wrote exactly what he wanted. As a result, future believers could read God's word.

Paul urged Timothy to trust God's word of the Old Testament because God inspired the words of men like Moses, David, and the prophets.

Peter knew Jesus well and wrote two New Testament letters to churches. In 2 Peter 1:20–21, Peter wrote about how the Holy Spirit inspired the words of Scripture: “Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” Peter also wrote that Christians should read the letters of the apostle Paul (3:15–16). Peter knew that the Holy Spirit was also working through Paul.

Do you wonder why this matters? The biblical authors were like reporters recording all they had seen and heard in God's big drama production. And that production is God's plan for the salvation of his people. That is why God chose to write his word through people. Since God planned to save people, he worked through people to write his word. You can trust the words of Scripture. Men wrote them down, but they wrote them as the Holy Spirit directed them. God inspired the words of Scripture.

So, how did we get the Bible? *God chose to reveal himself personally in his word by appearing to men and guiding them by the Holy Spirit who inspired the Scripture they wrote.*

PRAYER

Holy Father, help me to trust your word. I believe your Spirit worked through the men you chose to write Scripture, so give me the courage to believe and obey.

REFLECT

Why do you think God gave us his word through the writings of people?
