

# How the Bible Actually Works

Presented by



A Six Part Video Series  
Based on the Book  
by Peter Enns

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### LESSON 1

1. Pete says the Bible has some authority in the Christian faith.  
What does it mean for you that the Bible is an authority? Is that true for you?
2. What is wisdom and how does it relate to your Christian faith?
3. What is the relationship between rules and wisdom?  
How do they relate to the life of faith?



### LESSON 2

1. Pete says that the Bible doesn't unequivocally support the abolition of slavery.  
Do you agree? And how does this impact what you think the Bible is and  
what we're supposed to do with it?
2. What initial responses do you have with Pete's idea of "reimagining God in  
our time and place"? How would that have been interpreted in the tradition  
you grew up? And has that changed for you?
3. How can we take the ancient voice of the Bible seriously while not always  
reproducing it today? What does that mean in your daily life?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## LESSON 3

1. Pete talks about Hell in this video and how different Greek words are translated throughout the New Testament to talk about what happens to some people in the afterlife. What did your tradition teach you about hell growing up and how has that shifted? Why do you think it's shifted or not?
2. Why do you feel it's so important for some Christians that the Bible is clear about what to believe and how to live? What's at stake?
3. How does your relationship change if you believe the Bible is ambiguous about how to live and what to believe rather than clear? What implications does this have?



## LESSON 4

1. Pete mentions how his faith has changed over the past 10 years. How has your faith shifted in the past 10 years? What beliefs have changed? How have your life circumstances and emotional state changed?
2. How does it feel to hear that the Bible has diverse views in it? Why do you think you feel that way?
3. If you reflect on God given your own experience, how might you reimagine God? Who has God been to you in your life?

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THE BIBLE  
for Normal People

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



## LESSON 5

1. What do you think the significance is of Jesus crucifixion?  
What does it mean for your faith?
2. What relevance does the Old Testament have for your faith journey?  
Has that changed over the years?
3. Pete's discussion of discontinuity and reimagining God is similar to what AJ Levine and Marc Brettler say in their book *The Bible With and Without Jesus*,

**"The Bible itself is less important in Judaism than the Bible interpreted...Interpretation in Jewish tradition is an ongoing process, a partnership where humans interpret a divine text."**

What do you think this quote means? Does it resonate with your experience?



## LESSON 6

1. How do we reimagine God without just making God be whoever we want God to be?
2. What is your current view of God? What do you think has influenced that view most?
3. What is the role of the Bible in our lives as we seek to reimagine God in our current life and context?

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