

Confronting Christianity

HARD QUESTIONS FOR THE
WORLDS LARGEST RELIGION

How can you take the Bible literally?

Opening

Share Highs/Lows since the last time you met or How has God surprised you this past week?

What insights from last week have you reflected this past week? What stayed with you?

What is one thing in the Bible that is difficult for you to believe or accept?

Discussion

1. Imagine a friend said the following things; what would happen if you understood them literally?
My heart is broken...I nearly died of embarrassment ...I am feeling blue...
What does that tell us about the way we use language in everyday life? Can we apply that understanding to reading the Scriptures?
2. Have you struggled with interpreting scripture on your own? How is reading on our own intimidating? Share resources that you have found helpful; ie people, books, best practices, etc.
3. How does knowing the different genres of scripture help you interpret the Bible?
4. How does understanding Biblical hermeneutics, as described by Pastor Nick: Look at the context, don't put yourself in & let scripture interpret scripture, help you apply the meaning of the Bible to your life?
5. What should we make of apparent contradictions in the Bible? Is this a real challenge to your faith?
6. If we are to take the Bible seriously as God's word to us today, how should we respond to any passage we hear or read? Read Matthew 7:24-27, James 1:22-25.
7. How have you experienced the power of the scriptures to bring you life, hope, comfort and belief? How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work when you read the Bible?

Wrap Up

Does the Church have a good answer to the question: "How can you take the Bible literally?"
How are you prepared to answer this question in your own now?

Dear Lord Thank you that you speak to us through Scripture. Forgive us for being so reluctant to listen and so slow to put it into practice. Help us to recognise the Bible as not mere words on a page, but your love for us and this world. Help us by your Word know you and live for you. Amen.