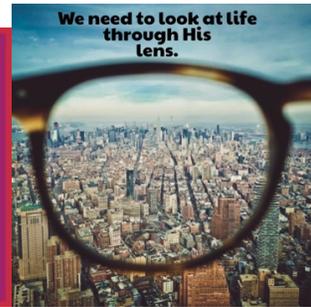
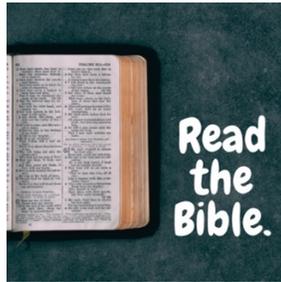
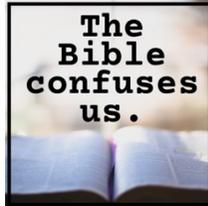


## The Plan Lesson 2



### Romans 12:2

**2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**



### 1 Corinthians 15:17–20

**17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.**

**18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.**

**19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.**

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### Genesis 1:26

**26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;..."**

**Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall**

**bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”**

### **Genesis 12:1–3**

**1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.**

**2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.**

**3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

### **Numbers 24:17**

**17 “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...**



### **Genesis 29:35**

**35 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.**

### **Micah 5:2**

**2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”**

**Isaiah 11:1** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

**Isaiah 7:14**

**14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**Isaiah 9:**

**6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7** Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**Isaiah 53:1–5**

**2** He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

**3** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**4** Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

**5** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**ABRAHAM.  
ISAAC.  
JACOB.  
JUDAH.  
JESSE.  
DAVID.  
BETHLEHEM.  
VIRGIN.**

## **Matthew 1:1–6**

**1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:**

**2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,**

**3 Judah the father of Perez ...**

**6 and Jesse the father of King David...**

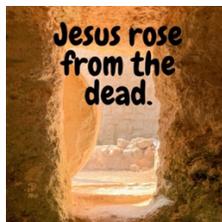
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## **2 Timothy 3:16–17**

**16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

**17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

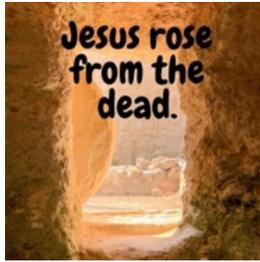
**IT'S ALL  
BECAUSE  
OF WHAT  
JESUS  
DID.**



**Because they  
didn't rise  
from the dead.**

**Jesus  
would  
never  
have been  
famous.**





**That is exactly what happened.**

**Jesus is the reason the Bible exists.**

**None of these guys were writing the Bible.**

**Luke 1:1**

**1 Many**

**Many have undertaken to draw up an account**

**WE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.**

**1. Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,  
2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.  
3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,  
4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.**

**2000 YEARS LATER WE ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT IT!**

**Andy Stanley: Think about Luke, he's living in the first century. Things aren't going well for a lot of the little ecclesias or little gatherings of followers of Jesus.**

**Luke travels all around the Mediterranean Rim with the Apostle Paul on several Apostle Paul's journeys. He's seen the Apostle Paul beat up. Meanwhile, he's got this document that he's given to Theophilus. I'm sure he had a copy for himself.**

**And he knows that several people have sat down and tried to create a document that pieces together chronologically the life of Jesus. He had no idea that of all the many that were written and all the many that were attempted to be written, that his would be one of four that would survive.**

**And not only would it survive, here's what happened to it.**

**It was meticulously copied. And then it was distributed to Christians and little ecclesias and some people memorized this entire document.**

**And then as the years passed, it was demonized.**

**It was collected with other Christian literature and it was burned.**

**Toward the end of the third century, the very beginning of the fourth century, Emperor Diocletian, he launched an empire wide persecution of Christians at the deepest level. And here's what Diocletian realized.**

**He realized the reason we can't get rid of these crazy Christians and the reason we can't get the pagan gods to be happy with us is because the Christians aren't making sacrifices and now the gods are angry, but we'll never get rid of the Christians until we get rid of their literature.**

**Because understand in the ancient times, pagan religions, they didn't have literature, they didn't have a Bible, they didn't have anything.**

**You just made sacrifices to the gods, you trusted the priest and just hoped things worked out.**

**But these crazy Christians, they had stuff written down. This was new. I mean, the Jewish people had the Torah, but you had to go to synagogue and that was a whole different thing.**

**These crazy Gentile Christians had this literature that just fueled this epidemic of Christianity.**

**So he decided not only are we gonna arrest the bishops, not only are we gonna shut down these little house gatherings, we're gonna collect anything that looks like religious literature and we're going to burn it.**

**And part of what was collected and burned were copies of the Gospel of Luke.**

**But these brave, brave, brave Jesus followers in the late third century, early fourth century, they would risk and in some cases lose their lives, not simply over what they believed, but to protect the sacred, sacred literature that would eventually become part of your Bible, our New Testament. And the document of Luke, the account of Jesus' life written by Luke, was one of those documents along with the Book of Acts.**

**But by the end of the third century, by the beginning of the fourth century, this literature had been so broadly distributed that even Diocletian with the power of Rome could not do away with all that Christian literature.**

**And then something remarkable happened. Constantine became the emperor.**

**His mother apparently was a Christian. Constantine apparently becomes a Christian. He lifts the ban on**

**Christian worship. And he allows the Christians to come out of the shadows and worship publicly.**

**And when they had come out of the shadows to worship publicly and their bishops and their scholars come out of the shadows, they are able to bring for the first time in human history, this literature that has fueled this movement that accomplished so much in the first 300 years of Christianity.**

**And they're able to bring out copies of the gospels, and copies of the letters of Paul, and copies of the letter of James.**

**And in some cases they'd already been bundled together, and they bring these out and the empire that crucified Jesus - finances, finances the assembly of the very first Bible and the very first Bibles.**

**And Constantine orders according to one story that 50 copies be made because he wants all the Christian bishops to work off the same text.**

**And so now you've got the wealth of the empire, you've got the best scholars bringing, not hundreds, thousands and thousands of these manuscripts together.**

**And they compare, and they compare, and they compare, and they compare and they authorize and they decided which of these documents are more authentic and where are the differences.**

**And they put together the very first Bible.**

**The stories in the Bible about Jesus, they're not just Bible stories.**  
**The story of Jesus IS the story of the Bible.**

**It's ALL about Jesus.**