



The Bible is fun

What I am not saying is *make the Bible fun*. Since the introduction of various Bible translations, we have had the Bible altered for fun. Not fun in the traditional sense. They did not change the wording in the Bible for the fun of it. No, it is downright intentional. I am sure that the original translators just wanted to make the Bible more accessible. Only a few learned scholars know Greek or Latin. Yet, the term “translation” has been violated. The term is now used to promote something beyond understandable. We now use words like relatable, fun, and modernized. We must be careful how we use the word fun in the Bible.

Yet, these ideas stem from another theme. That modern readers will not engage the Bible because it is not relatable or boring. Those that call it boring have not read it. Who are these modern readers? Were there modern readers when they translated the Bible into English in 1382? The purpose was to be able to read it. The movement today is asking the Bible to relate to us. For 2000 years (and longer) the Bible has been life changing. It has been relatable through the Middle Ages and other periods. Yet, the modern movement says we cannot relate to it anymore. We must modernize it. Make it fun to read.

To me, it is all in the mind. If you think something will be boring then most likely it will be. We say that to eat a whole elephant takes one bite at a time, a long time. The Bible is big.

However, we can digest it one verse at a time, a very long time. Is that a problem? People tend to look at the Bible as a big boring book. An old book! Yet, new books become old do they not? Does Dr. Seuss become old and boring? But we will say: Dr. Seuss is fun and the Bible is not. It is all in the mind. What if the Bible is fun to read for the right reasons?

We categorize the Bible a certain way. If we like to finish things in a hurry then the Bible will cause you stress. So will reading War and Peace. I read books slowly. Generally, I will stop at a cliff hanger just to let it sit in my mind for a while. Let my imagination play with me. The Bible is no different. This is not just a book of God's word or history. No, this is a workbook. Kids love coloring in books. We are Gods children. God gave us a book to color in. There should be fun in marking it up. I have chosen to highlight the word God or Lord where I see it. Yet, there is more we could do. I chose a certain color to highlight important verses. There is another color for verses that stood out. Marking up the Bible is fun!

The Bible is fun when you come across certain stories. Who does not like Noah or Moses. However, there are other interesting stories hidden within the law books. There are events that show miracles and wars. There is incest, murder, and love in the Bible. It is there for lessons to be learned. I have found humor in a couple of the Jesus narratives like the woman at the well. It is simple to me. Some of the best parts of the Bible are lesser known. They are hidden in-between lists and laws.

Themes are fun! I did a study of the great men of the Bible. What was the role of women in the scriptures. You will be surprised! Go on a field trip looking for themes. Who does not love a field trip. Some of those themes could be centered around love, hate, or God the Father. I absolutely recommend reading the Bible straight through the first time. Yet, the second time it should be more methodical. One of the best ways to see the Bible in 3D is to see it all first. Then

scriptures come alive while pointing themselves to other scriptures. The main theme of the Bible is its massive interconnectedness.

Bible memory is a tough game. Some find it easy. Yet most of us try way too hard. Bible memory means you had feelings in the moment. Remembering is usually based on life experiences. What was happening when you remembered a certain passage. There are verses that my wife has said that are directly related to her cancer journey. Mine is sadness through divorce. Yet, there are a fun timeline of adventures to be discovered in the Bible. How far you have come by the verses you remember. It has strengthened you. Your faith and soul have benefited deeply by reading the Bible in tough times. You are growing and that is fun. Your Bible should be a teacher, friend, and workbook. We need all three to get through life. Add fun to your mindful thoughts as you use the Bible as a companion instead of a boring law book that nobody wants to read.