



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Learning the Language

1. Before today, had you ever thought about the Bible in terms of literary genre? How does knowing that “a proverb is not a promise” and “a parable is not a timeline” change the way you approach certain passages?
2. Historical narrative is descriptive, not prescriptive — it records what happened, not necessarily what should have happened. Has there ever been a narrative passage you misread as a command or a model to follow? How does this distinction help?
3. The Law was given to a redeemed people as a response to grace — not as a means to earn it. How does that reframe the way you think about the Old Testament Law? Does it change how you read those sections of Scripture?
4. Letters in the New Testament were written to address specific occasions — real problems in real churches. How does knowing the occasion of a letter change the way you read and apply its instructions?
5. Poetry in the Psalms gives voice to the full range of human emotion — joy, grief, doubt, anger, and praise. Is there an emotion you’ve struggled to bring before God honestly? How does poetry in Scripture give you permission to do that?
6. Proverbs are observations about how life generally works — not guarantees. Has there ever been a proverb you treated as a promise and felt confused or disappointed when life didn’t work out that way? How does this reframing help?
7. The prophets were primarily covenant messengers calling people back to faithfulness — not fortune tellers predicting the future. How does that change the way you read the prophetic books of the Old Testament?
8. Apocalyptic literature was written to strengthen the faith of persecuted believers with one central message: God is in control. In what area of your life do you most need to hear that message right now?