

Transcript 91

Shea Houdmann

Welcome to the Guy Questions podcast. Today's episode we're going to be spotlighting a Christian organization or company that I'm a huge fan of. If you spent any time on GotQuestions.org, you've surely seen some of the links we have to Faithlife or Logos Bible software what their most known by and to me Logos is a tremendous tool for helping people study the Bible better, have more access to resources than really anyone in the history of the planet has ever had before. So on today's episode, I have Scott Lindsey. He is the Executive Director of Faithlife so Scott welcome to the show.

Scott Lindsey

Good to be here.

Shea Houdmann

So tell me just briefly what is your role at Faithlife?

Scott Lindsey

Well, I'm the frequent flyer mile king of Logos. Travel quite a bit. Obviously the last couple years with COVID, it's not been as bad, but it's definitely starting to pick up again. I would say my primary role is building key relationships with key ministries, not only equipping key ministries to for the work of the ministry, helping them study, helping them prepare messages. But I also speak at conferences, so actually tomorrow morning I head to Kansas City to hopefully get a bunch of married couples excited about studying the Bible together.

Shea Houdmann

Well, a marriage conference I'm guessing that sounds a lot of fun. So for our listeners who may not be familiar. So what is Faithlife and what is Logos Bible software?

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, so the company initially started 30 years ago as Logos Research Systems, our our fearless leader and Chairman, founder Bob Pritchett was one of those very smart young people at Microsoft and actually used the labs at Microsoft back in the 90s to create Logos Bible software and that that kind of launched the company obviously left Microsoft. And started again Logos Research Systems, and then a few years later we changed the company named a Logos Bible software and then about 10 years ago changed the name of the company again to Faithlife because we're doing a lot more than just Logos. Now Logos is what we're best known for, but we've got a lot of other technology. We've got technology to help churches put you know song lyrics up on the big screen during the worship service. We've got giving technology. We've we've got a publish in the House publishing so Faithlife was just a better name to encompass all that we do. But again, Logos is what we're best known for.

Shea Houdmann

At GotQuestions.org our goal is to help people to find answers to their Bible questions. Obviously a big part of that is we want people to be studying the Bible. So I've been using Logos Bible software for probably approaching 20 years and it's been a huge benefit to me in studying the Bible, so how and you can describe it, don't get super technical, but how does Logos help people understand and study the Bible better?

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, so actually I'll borrow from a great, uh, a great experience last week, so I was off the coast of Miami on one of those little keys, one of the little islands there. I was actually working with about 200 NFL players hopefully getting them into the Bible, studying the Bible, and there's a feature in Logos that you know of everything that I showed, I did a workshop, I did morning devotional about the Bible and you know we obviously we're getting Logos into the hands of these players. But it was the feature in Logos called fact book that really resonated with so many and kind of the mantra of the event you know when it got done was goodbye Google, hello Fact book and that's that was really, you know it was kind of an epiphany to me. You know, I, I've been with Logos now 25 years I've used it personally. I used it in seminary. I think it is absolutely one of the best tools out there to study the Bible, but what I forgot about Logos was it's also very practical, meaning people have questions that need answers and sadly most are going to Google for those answers about the Bible, about theology.

Scott Lindsey

You know, and during one of my sessions you know most of the guys were married and you know had their wives with them. But I was like if we just went to Google right now and type the word marriage. You can imagine the nonsense and and heretical information you'd get right about marriage, and so Logos is kind of that safe place. It's a curated library of trusted sources and publishers and theologians and so on. And so it was just awesome to see these 300 pound, six foot you know guys with logos in their hand going to fact book. Going this is exactly what I've been needing because I've been going to Google and I've been getting all kinds of craziness, and so you know, thank you for providing this tool for us.

Shea Houdmann

So what are some of the key features to Logos in it beyond fact book? When I look at the sheer number of resources that are available, sometimes it can be overwhelming. I'm due to our long time relationship between Got Questions and Faithlife we are gifted whatever the the biggest package is. I don't know if it's. I'm a Marvel Comics fan, so I like to call it Logos, vibranium addition, but so many resources that way more than I could ever possibly use, and for some people that can sometimes be a little overwhelming. So what are just some of the ways in addition to fact book where people can use it and not get lost in the sheer volume of amazing resources?

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, so there's really two things there. There's the tools and Logos. And then there's exactly what you said, the resources I think we're over 200,000 books now, in Logos and and the good news there is whatever your interest is, whether it be apologetics, whether it be Christian counseling, whether it might be a pastor preparing a message. Or you might be absolutely brand new to the Bible. And let's be honest, it can be a daunting and intimidating task to jump into all of those 66 books. So on the feature

side, we already mentioned fact book, but there's another pretty amazing relatively new feature and logos called workflows. This was another feature last week that really resonated and what a workflow is is a process.

Scott Lindsey

So we have a basic Bible study workflow, so let's say someone's new to Christianity and new to the faith and new to the Bible. All they have to do is open this feature called the Basic Bible study work flow, type in the verse they want to study, Romans 8, Psalm 23, Genesis 1 and it just walks you through the seven steps on how to study that particular passage, but the beauty of it is not only do we give you this step, and we tell you how important number one step is, read that passage from your Bible right? When the step is there, we we put the Bible right there as well so you don't have to know so where do I go in Logos to accomplish this step? Logos gives you the step and then gives you the information with the step and then it asks questions.

Scott Lindsey

One of the things I love about the workflows is we should be asking questions of the text like who wrote this? Why did this person write this letter? What were the cultural issues going on? You know all these things that a savvy you know veteran Bible study student they know these questions. But again, someone new doesn't, and so we walk them through these steps. We have a workflow for how to study a biblical person, how to study a doctrine. We even have workflows for devotional reasons or praying the scripture you know. Maybe someone listening what they really need help with is their time with Jesus in the morning, right? What it what, what? How can that get better using Scripture and so on so we have a workflow for that, so that's one of the most innovative new features in Logos. Is this feature called workflows.

Shea Houdmann

That's I think it's very interesting in, in my experience with Logos starting from when I was a baby Christian I find found it hugely helpful then and then all through Bible college and seminary studies. So let's talk a little bit briefly, how like the different resources they with Logos has for a like a new believer for like a baby Christian, but also for a more advanced Bible studier.

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, so you can actually go to Logos and we're going to have a special promotion for the listener, so we'll we'll give everybody that special website, but you can go in and actually pick a denominational lane if you will. You know, maybe you're more in the Baptist Lane, or maybe you're more in the Anglican lane. Or, you know, we have our just kind of in the middle lane so you can start kind of where your team is if you will. But then again with 200,000 books, you can add your interests, whether it be again, apologetics or you know I wanna I wanna master Greek and Hebrew right? Well you probably wanna be at at the silver level or higher because silver includes those types of resources right? Your interlinears. Your your major Greek and Hebrew lexicons and dictionaries.

Scott Lindsey

Or as you said you could be, I'm brand new I you know that Greek stuff that's gonna be a few years down the road so you just start at like the starter level or the bronze level so we have something for just

about you know anybody listening and where they are and their studies. But the good news is the 200,000 plus additional resources down the road that you can add. You know, as you start developing your ministry and your interests and things like that.

Shea Houdmann

Sure, with Scott mentioned earlier in logos.com/gotquestionspodcast, so for for a week after this podcast airs, Logos is offering a 15% discount to anyone who enters who starts at that URL. So again, we'll include that in the the show notes at podcast.gotquestions.org and also the description on YouTube when this episode goes live. So thank you Scott and Logos for offering that to our listeners.

Shea Houdmann

That segues really easily into the next question. I want to ask and I want to ask you actually two questions over the years there's two main issues that people have asked us about at Got Questions about why do you guys promote Logos Bible software so much and the first one is why is Logo so expensive? And I let's allow you to answer that question, I know how we answer it, but how, how do you answer that? If someone asked you that question?

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, well, you know solid theological resources costs money. I mean, if you if you go to your Christian bookstore, you know the the few that have survived. You know most people are buying resources via the Internet now through, you know, through their ministry or or some of the the large book sellers. You know theological books are expensive. You know a commentary, set. A commentary set can cost you \$1000, you know? But if you think about how long it took to write you know a 64 volume commentary set and all the scholarship that I mean, it could take 30-40 years. A single volume of a good solid biblical commentary can be easily \$75 to \$100, right? And so I actually think Logos is the steal of the century, meaning let's just say our bronze level. That's kind of our entry level to Bible study, so it includes the major translations, some good commentaries, good, yeah it's a couple hundred books.

Scott Lindsey

If you do the math on the bronze, you know even at the discount we're offering, I think you're paying \$1.35 per resource in bronze. I mean where in the world can you get a solid Bible dictionary for \$1.35, right? So when you realize what you're getting for for the price you're paying it, it really is an amazing, uh, deal. But I get it.

Scott Lindsey

You know, I was on radio years ago and we had a caller in. And he got, he was really upset that you know Logos had something for \$100 or \$200 and the thankfully the host asked the person that called in, you know, Sir, do you have a Bible and says yes. I have a Bible. You know what? What Bible do you have? He said the blah blah blah study Bible. How much did you pay for that, Sir? He said why, you know, I, I think it was \$70.00. And the guys like wow that that actually is the expensive deal right there? I mean you paid 70 bucks for a single book, so I get that. But again, if you know the value of books and if you've ever purchased 3, 4, 5 again, solid theological resources, oh, you're easily at a couple \$100 at that point. So logos is is an amazing deal considering what you get.

Shea Houdmann

I totally agree. With that, and even there are levels below bronze, so you can get a very low entry level package that will have all the basic resources you need at a very affordable price. But for me the temptation is oh wow, I need, like I joked earlier, the vibranium package I need, the package that has absolutely everything. It's like, no vast majority of people really don't need that many resources because, as you mentioned, with 200,000 books in there I'm I'm sorry I'm never going to get around to reading that much as much as I love to read so don't allow yourself to become in the sense like materialistic about I don't think well I've got to have a bigger package than my pastor, or if your pastor, then my friend who's another pastor, he's got the Platinum edition. It's like come on get the package that you think has the resources that will be beneficial to you and don't get, get into the I want to have all the bells and whistles and absolutely every thing.

Shea Houdmann

So the second question and you mentioned earlier about the packages for different like denominational lanes, and we've received criticism this recently. Why do you promote Logos Bible software when they have a package for Catholics or a package for 7th Day Adventists, which I fully believe that there are Catholics and Seventh Day Adventists, who truly know and love the Lord. But there's a significant number of theological differences between what, generally speaking, is Faithlife's target audience, which is like evangelical Christian churches. So how do you respond to that?

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, well, I respond to it that you know I want everybody to grow in their love and their knowledge of the word. And so do I have my theological team. Yes, I do. But what's crazy is where I'm at right now is not where I was ten years ago. You know it was not where I came into the faith 20 years ago. Right, and so we're all on a journey, but what I appreciate about the fact that Logos has so many resources from as you mentioned, other denominational viewpoints is a lot of times I want to understand other viewpoints I might want to even critique the other viewpoint.

Scott Lindsey

I know when I was in seminary. I love the fact that I had access to the Anglican view, to the 7th Day Adventist view. I had, you know, the the Lutheran view I it made me actually even more firm in where I stand on some issues. But you know, we can't just stay only in our camp. You know one of the great things that the Lord. It was a test of the time, but I served in the military for eight years. I was in back in the early 90s, Desert Storm, Desert Shield got deployed and you know when when you're in America you can go to the church you want, hang out with the Christians that think about things just the way you do. And hey, that's great, but when I was over there deployed, if a Catholic told me he loved Jesus, I hung on to that brother for dear life. Uh, if I met a Methodist that you know, it was amazing to me how much the differences didn't matter as much because we needed each other to get through that. I mean the temptations, just being away from your family for a couple years, so it was a really good thing for me to learn in a real world situation and and I think it's one of the things I love most about my job at Logos is I teach all over. Uh, you know, I I. I think I might have been able to see the body of Christ and all of its flavors and all of its colors and all you know pet peeves. And then you know and I've come to appreciate how awesome the body of Christ is. Yeah, so I get it. We get those same phone calls and emails and but

again if someone is thinking that listening right now, don't you think that the best thing someone should have that you feel has a heretical view or thinks really wrong about some wouldn't it be the best thing for them to have is tools to study the Bible? The text itself. To dig into the original languages and original meanings? You know, I think that's what everybody needs, especially those that I disagree with.

Shea Houdmann

And that's exactly how we've responded when we received the occasional complaint about that. And usually I think it's almost always come with the the Catholics. I mean, look I, there's a lot of stuff in the Catholic package that I have absolutely no interest in in reading, but if our usual complaint or disagreement with Catholics is about their view of the Bible, or they're placing tradition over the Bible, wouldn't we want Catholics to be studying the Bible? And if offering them a package of Bible software with some Catholic recourses, then it will eventually lead to them studying the Bible. I think that's a total win, so I I get the concerns that I also get the the strategy of just wanting people to study the Bible no matter what denomination of branch of Christianity that they're in.

Shea Houdmann

So briefly with the time we have left. What are some other projects that Faithlife has has going on? I know you said that Logos Bible software is by far the biggest division of Faithlife. But what are some of the other options or programs that are out there?

Scott Lindsey

Yeah, I would say the two major other I hate even using word products, technologies that that are really healthy and are really serving the church is one, Proclaim. So Proclaim is our multimedia software, so it allows the church to put the lyrics up on the big screen. You can send questionnaires through Proclaimed and mobile devices. I mean literally one of the features of Proclaim is, you know, Pastor gets up in the pulpit and says, hey open your Bibles to Romans 8:1 and as soon as he says that everybody mobile device vibrates and it says push here for Romans 8:1. So this amazing connection to ministry and preaching and worship right to mobile devices is incredible 'causes as you, you and I both know if you look around at church service now and Pastor does say open your Bibles, what is everybody pulling out? Their mobile devices?

Scott Lindsey

Right now I I'm I'm still old school I I still open and you know I've got my paper Bible in my hand but I do have my Logos on my iPad right next to it. So Proclaim is amazing. And then they are giving platforms. Called Faith Life giving you know when when COVID hit so many churches never thought we would need a giving platform. You know, everybody just puts their check in the box or the offering plate. And yeah, they had to. They had to change that real quickly because so much of it obviously, as you know, was virtual and so those would probably be the really two big big technologies that are serving the church outside of Logos Bible software.

Shea Houdmann

Our church uses Proclaim and it's it's amazing just how extensive it is, how many different things you can do with it, and even we just started with just using it for a presentation platform. But then, seeing some of the extra features, they're digging a little deeper into it more and more so I highly

recommended churches looking for solutions like this to at least take a look at both Proclaim and Faith Like Giving, preserve both them well designed and at this point pretty fine tuned program. So so Scott, anything else you would like to share about Logos who is ultimately Logos Bible software for?

Scott Lindsey

You know, I, I think it's be a great thing to close with. There's a recent study 400,000 Christians were actually part of the study. They wanted to see what Bible engagement looked like for for the average Joe right? And they discovered something that became the highlight of this entire study. When we're in the Bible only one time a week, it has negligible effect on some very key areas of our life. OK, two times a week, negligible effect. Three times a week, negligible effect, but when we're in the scripture at least four times a week. Like radical things happen in the life of believer, and that's not what you think, right? You think would be a gradual incline right? One time a week, two time. No, it was literally 1, 2, 3 flat line, but at four times a week this is what happens. Feeling lonely drops 30%, anger issues drop 32%, bitterness and relationships, especially marriage drops. 40%, sexual sins such as pornography drops 60% and the big stat was feeling distant from God.

Scott Lindsey

You know when I travel and I get to talk to people I hear from so many people, I feel really distant from the Lord, you know? It's the 1st thing I asked. What what does your week look like in the Bible? And I know what the answer is going to be. I know what the answer is going to be. That dropped 62% when we're in the word of God at least four times a week, so there's this like massive study with a lot of smart people looking at the data that is saying what we already know. We have to be in the word of God on a regular basis.

Scott Lindsey

You know, and on the flip side, sharing your faith jumps 200% and discipling others, your coworkers, your family, you know those that you're in leadership over that jumps 230%. So that's why we get up in the morning at Logos. That's what we're excited about. I mean, 500 employees now dedicated to creating tools to make the Bible, you know, come to life on your screen. I mean, one of the things you and I love about Logos is how we visualize things like the Psalms Explorer, and I mean it's just like your eyeballs are like wow, I have never seen the Bible like this before, but wouldn't it be the greatest thing for somebody that gets Logos and then a couple days down the road they look up at the clock and it's 3:00 o'clock in the morning and they're still studying the Bible. Like like this is what is this? This is incredible. That's what excites me about Logos.

Shea Houdmann

Again at GotQuestions.org our our goal is to help people find answers to their Bible questions, whether that's at GotQuestions.org or do other means that we want people in the word? We want people studying the Bible and Logos is a tremendous resource. It's amazing how many different resources are available to help you understand the Bible better. To help you study topically, to help you understand, dig really deep into a specific passage. There's so many great tools, so Scott thank you for coming on the show today and I'm sharing a little bit about what Logos is and what Faithlife is all about. I appreciate your time today.

Scott Lindsey

And remember, we got the the website up for about a week after this airing and and also the we have a monthly option, so we'll we'll help you kind of budget it it out so and free training so I know a lot of people like oh this sounds interesting, but you don't know me and my computer we don't get along too well, yeah, we will train you so we have a free training website that'll teach you how to use any aspect or tool inside of Logos. So we want you doing more and better Bible study and so we will support you in in those ends.

Shea Houdmann

Awesome and again that link is logos.com/gotquestionspodcasts and of course we'll include the links when this episode goes live. So Scott, thank you again. This is the Got Questions podcast. Got questions? The Bible has answers? We'll help you find them.