

You Should Trust the Bible Study Guide

The Bible is great, but should we really take it literally? Should we insist that people believe everything in it? Is it historically reliable? Didn't people add their angle as the years went on? Since it is culturally repressive, shouldn't some of its views be left behind?

1. Read the following verse and discuss the concept that *we become what we view*. Share examples of how the world, the flesh and the devil influence people away from God. How has reading the Bible helped you overcome these influences?

"Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness." Luke 11:34.

2. Satan cast doubt on God's word from the beginning (Genesis 3:1). Discuss the formation of the Bible (see below). Roleplay how you would answer someone who casts doubt on the historical reliability of the Bible.

- a. General Revelation
- b. Special Revelation
- c. Recognition
- d. Distribution
- e. Preservation

3. Some people reject the Bible because they are offended by a cultural aspect. For example, *"The Bible condones slavery, so I reject the Bible."* Slavery in the Greco-Roman world was not the same as slavery in the 17-19th Centuries. It was not race and kidnapping based. Tim Keller says, *"You may be getting offended because of an unexamined assumption of the superiority of your cultural moment."* How would you answer someone who rejects the Bible because of some of the cultural oddities it seems to express?

4. When it comes to accepting the Bible, personally, what are the benefits? For example, read Luke 22:15. How does it make you feel to think that Jesus *'earnestly desired'* to share the Passover meal with [you, personally] to illustrate what He was about to do on the cross for you? How does a high view of Scripture become a privilege inviting you into a warm, personal relationship with God? Discuss.

Equip Message Slides

Big Idea: I commit to trusting the Bible.

Luke 11:34

"Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness."

I. Key Influencers- Devil/World/Flesh

II. You Can and Should Trust the Bible.

- A. Historically
- B. Culturally
- C. Personally

A. Historically

1. How reliable are the stories?

A. Historically

2. How did we get the Bible?

- a. General Revelation
- b. Special Revelation (OT)

Exodus 19:18-19 "mountain trembled...sound of trumpet...voice of God..."

Exodus 24:12 "Come up to me...I will give you the law and commandments..."

Exodus 31:24-26 "Take this book and place it in the ark...There it will remain as a witness."

Didn't lots of people just add their stuff?

1. Author- Was the book written by a prophet of God?
2. Miracles- Was the writer authenticated by miracles to confirm the message?
3. Truth- Does the book tell the truth about God with no compromises?
4. Transformation- Does the book demonstrate a divine capacity to transform lives?
5. Acceptance- Was the book accepted as God's word by the original audience?

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- b. Special Revelation (NT) (continued)

Luke 1:2-4 "... eyewitnesses ... have delivered them to us, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, ... that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."

2 Peter 1:21

"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

1 John 1: 3

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, ..."

How did we get the Bible?

c. Recognition

The writings were formatted by later leaders!

Acts 2:42 – "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."

How did we get the Bible? (General & special revelation, recognition...)

d. Distribution

Weren't the writings riddled with mistakes and changes?

e. Preservation

B. Culturally

The Bible condones slavery and that was wrong, and so all of it should be rejected.

"You may be getting offended because of an unexamined assumption of the superiority of your cultural moment." (Tim Keller)

Big Idea: I commit to trusting the Bible.

C. Personally

A high view of Scripture is a privilege inviting me into a warm, personal relationship with God.

Luke 22:15

"And he said to them, 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.'"

Big Idea: I commit to trusting the Bible.

Challenge

"God, I recognized the influences of the devil, the world and my own flesh, and I accept the Bible as your word to me. I commit to regularly read it and engage in a personal connection with you."