

Asking for a friend.

A NEW SERIES ASKING REAL QUESTIONS

Week #1: Can I Really Trust the Bible?

What is the Bible?

- A collection of _____ different books (39 O.T. & 27 N.T.), written by _____ authors, spanning approximately _____ years, telling _____ unified story.

How to Test the Bible:

- Internal Consistency
- Historically
- Bibliographically
- Archaeologically
- Prophetically

What Does This Mean for Me?

- The goal is not to know the _____; it's to know the _____ it reveals.

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

John 5:39–40 (NLT)

- The Bible is not meant merely to _____ me; it _____ me into the likeness of Jesus.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)

- The Bible is not _____ for others; it's a _____ for me.

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

Matthew 7:1–5 (NIV)

- The Bible is more than a book to _____; it's a story to _____.

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:2–3 (NIV)

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:16–17 (NLT)

Discussion questions:

- What has shaped the way you view the Bible? How has that influenced your willingness to trust it?
- What is your primary objective when you read scripture? Information gathering, looking for answers, figuring out what the rules are, or are you looking to encounter God? What might it look like to approach scripture differently?
- Are you more prone to use scripture as a pair of binoculars to find something wrong with someone else, or as a mirror for yourself? What might God be inviting you to see, confront, or change in your own life?
- What truth from Scripture do you already know that God may be inviting you to actually live?

Recommended resources:

[*The Problem of God*](#), by Mark Clark

[*Confronting Christianity*](#), by Rebecca McLaughlin

[*Testimonies of the Truth: Why You Can Trust the Gospels*](#), by Lydia McGrew

[*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*](#), by Josh and Sean McDowell

[*The Historical Reliability of the New Testament*](#), by Craig Blomberg

[*Excavating the Evidence for Jesus: The Archaeology and History of Christ and the Gospels*](#), by Titus Kennedy

(NLT) New Living Translation (NIV) New International Version

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Week #1: Can I Really Trust the Bible?

What is the Bible?

- A collection of 66 different books (39 O.T. & 27 N.T.), written by 40 authors, spanning approximately 1,500 years, telling one unified story.

How to Test the Bible:

- Internal Consistency
- Historically
- Bibliographically
- Archaeologically
- Prophetically

What Does This Mean for Me?

- The goal is not to know the Bible; it's to know the God it reveals.

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

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