

Week 5 Can The Bible Be Trusted?

March 21



(~90 minutes needed)

[In this series, we'll be taking an intentional dive into some of the most important questions we can ask as human beings. They have to do with God, our existence, meaning, purpose, suffering, salvation, and more. For your group discussion to flourish, it is paramount that your people in your life groups access the weekly content and think through the reflection questions ahead of time and even consider some of the resources sent out each week. You'll have time in these guides to give each person reflection time on the questions, but conversation will be best if people do most of their thinking beforehand.]

Begin with 1-3 minutes of silence + prayer (1-3 minutes)

As you begin your gathering, spend a minute or two together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few moments of quiet centering, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

Read this overview (1 minute)

The Bible is the most-read book of all-time. It has impacted our literature, our language, and our lives in ways we're both conscious and unconscious of. This week, we're talking about the Bible, we're talking specifically about whether or not the Bible can be trusted.

Many people stumble with faith in Jesus because of their questions regarding the Bible. *Can the stories we read in the Bible be thought of as true? Are the teachings and actions of Jesus representative of what Jesus actually said and did? Do I trust this book to give me all I need for life and faith in God?* The questions could go on.

This week, we'll think about the question pertaining to the Bible. Next, we'll wrestle with some of the feelings, thoughts, and tensions associated with it. Then, we're gonna look to Scripture to see if we can find some answers.

Feel free to share openly and honestly about your own struggles with this question. This is safe space to voice any questions, fears, and doubts that you may have!

Personal reflection (10-15 minutes)

Give everyone about 10-15 minutes to sit with God and reflect on the question, “Can the Bible be trusted?” Actually have people write out their thoughts on the questions below. *You’ll want to have some pens and paper ready for people to jot down any thoughts that they have.*

Have people reflect on the following questions:

- What are your thoughts/feelings about the question pertaining to the Bible? Can it be trusted? Why or why not?
- How would you answer that question if someone asked you?
- How does your answer to that question impact your everyday living?

Debrief these questions in triads (30 minutes)

Split your group into smaller triads to share their thoughts on the questions above.

Once the personal reflection time is completed, have everyone come back into a large group to share about their triad discussion, to read Scripture, and to debrief the sermon.

Gather as a large group for discussion (30 minutes)

Once you have debriefed your personal reflection time, spend time in the Scripture below as well as debriefing the sermon from this weekend. *There are lots of questions here, so feel free to pick a couple as you see fit to guide the discussion.*

- What were some of the things that came from your smaller group discussions that stood out?
- How did the sermon this past weekend challenge or deepen how you think about answering the question, “Can the bible be trusted?”
- Have you ever wavered in your trust in the Bible? When? What made that happen? What solved that issue for you (if it’s solved)?
- How does trusting the bible relate to several of the other questions we have asked in this series? Do you feel like you follow what the bible says on those other questions? Why or why not?
- What were Chad’s main points when talking about transmission of the Bible? What about his points when talking about the canon of the Bible? What about his points in talking about the content of the Bible? Which of these did you find most thought-provoking? Why?
- Look up the following passages: **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 4:4, John 17:17; Psalm 12:6; Psalm 119: 96; Isaiah 55:10-11.** What does the Bible say about itself? Do you agree with the Bible about what it says about itself? Why or why not?

- If you were engage in conversation with someone who asked you this question about the Bible, how would you go about engaging with that person? What do you think would be important to emphasize? How would you want to posture yourself if a conversation like this came up?
- What new questions did this message or does this topic raise for you?
- What is one key takeaway from tonight's conversation that you need to do or think more about?

Finish with prayer (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.