



WHY CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE? 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

1 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

"All your commandments are sure (trustworthy)"

Psalms 119:86a (ESV)

I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE ...

1. IT IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does."

Psalms 33:4 (NIV)

2. IT IS SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE

"Every word of God proves true"

Proverbs 30:5 (ESV)

"The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times."

Psalms 12:6 (ESV)

3. IT IS PROPHETICALLY ACCURATE

"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 Peter 1:21 (ESV)

"But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Matthew 26:56 (ESV)

"And (the angel) said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

Revelation 22:6 (ESV)

Notes:



4. IT IS THEMATICALLY UNIFIED

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

Luke 24:27 (ESV)

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me"

John 5:39 (ESV)

5. IT IS CONFIRMED BY JESUS

"For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

Matthew 5:18 (ESV)

6. IT HAS SURVIVED ALL ATTACKS

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Matthew 24:35 (ESV)

All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."

1 Peter 1:24-25 (ESV)

7. IT HAS TRANSFORMING POWER

"So, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

THE BIG QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE THE AUTHORITY FOR MY LIFE?

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!"

Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

Notes:



Sermon Discussion Guide

Why Can I Trust the Bible?

40 Days in the Word – Part 2

The King's Chapel – 10.6.19

*"The words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay and purified seven times!"
Psalm 12:6 (NIV)*

The Bible is not only the first printed book, but also the most translated, sold and read book of all time. God himself has breathed his very words through human hands onto scrolls, papyrus, paper, and electronic media. Although it took over 1600 years, 40 authors from diverse backgrounds and lifestyles, and three languages to write, it contains a unified single message: the redemption of mankind by Jesus. Jesus himself in Luke 11:28 confirms the message of the Bible.

We also know that the Bible is inspired, infallible, and inerrant. You can trust the Bible because: It is historically accurate, it is scientifically accurate, it is prophetically accurate, it is thematically unified, it is confirmed by Jesus, it has survived all attacks, and it has transforming power.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. **What does it say?** Have three or more people read Psalm 12:6 above. God took great care to preserve his words and protect the Bible from eradication. Why does this passage make you feel confident about the trustworthiness of the Bible?
2. **What does it mean?** How can the purity of the Bible and its unified message improve our relationship with God?
3. **What do I do?** Knowing the care God put into protecting the Bible and maintaining its message, discuss in your group how its truth can motivate you to expand your biblical knowledge.

"Jesus replied, 'But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.'" Luke 11:28

4. **What does it say?** Jesus believed the Bible was true and commanded us to trust his word. What does the above verse say we are to do once we hear the word of God?
5. **What does it mean?** Christ came to bring God's message of salvation to people who have lost hope. How does putting the word of God into practice help you stop being a slave to your own desires?
6. **What do I do?** Talk to the group about one area in your life the Holy Spirit may be prompting you to change. What action steps are necessary? Tell the group how they might help you in this process.

Diving Deeper (optional)

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

1. **What does it mean?** What specific things can we do to transform our minds?
2. **Probe It!** Is there an attitude you need to change?

REVIEW ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR COMMITMENTS MADE DURING YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING.



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Suggestions for This Week's Study

- If you could design your own bible, what would be an important feature for you?
- **Goal:** To understand the Bible can be trusted because it is God-breathed truth and to take steps so group members can "Let the word of God dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).
- *Holy and Almighty Father, thank you for helping us see the very clear and simple truth of our need to obey your Word and, through your Spirit, please give us the strength to obey it. Help us live out the profound simplicity of obeying your truth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Consider God's five purposes for the church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission and Worship, and make a plan to encourage your group members to growth and commitment in their weak areas.
- ✓ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Talk It Over is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. We've designed it so it can be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson.
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Diving Deeper section or add additional Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- The questions relating to Bible study methods are helpful to develop Bible literacy and spiritual maturity in our lives. You can help your group be aware of their needs in these areas by using these questions as a regular part of each discussion.
- Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. When discussing how they will apply principles, group members may state very general goals such as "I need to spend more time in prayer." It is important for you to help people make goals that are very specific and commit to specific plans of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 25 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.