



Week: 2 – Is the Bible Reliable?

Date: April 18, 2021

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Big Idea: The Bible is an ancient book. How can we be certain that the stories told there are historical, true, and accurate to the original? How can we be certain that what we read today is what was written back then? We'll look at four convincing arguments for the reliability of the Bible and what they mean for us today.

Video: <https://youtu.be/CNlnlSH9CA0>

Preparation: Mom and/or dad, take time to prepare well for this spiritual experience with your son or daughter and perhaps their friends. Proper preparation includes reading through this guide, setting up a comfortable environment, preparing the videos, materials (*everyone will need a Bible, pen and notebook/journal*) and snacks, and prayer. It also includes giving your participants time to prepare as well. Let them know in advance what you want to do and then remind them a few minutes before your start time so that they are ready too.

Interactive game / activity

- **Bible Alphabet Game:**

Have participants sit in a circle and, beginning with the person left of the leader, say a name from the Bible that begins with each sequential letter in the alphabet. For instance, the first person might say "Angel," the second person might say "Bethlehem," and the third person might say "Corinthians." If someone is unable to say a Bible name (person, place, or thing), he or she gets a strike, and the next person continues where the previous person stopped. You can play one, two, or three strikes and you're out. The last person in wins the game.

Activity Debrief: (This would be a good time to pull out the snacks)

- Which Bible story is your favorite? Which Bible story do you find most unbelievable?

Video Teaching: Apologetics – [Is the Bible Reliable?](#)

Set-up: *The Bible is unlike any other book in the world. It is actually a collection of roughly 66 books, written over 1000 years, on three different continents, by roughly 40 authors, in three languages, and it all works together to tell one, cohesive story. It is the best-selling book of all time. It has been translated into more languages than any other book. And it is the most quoted book in history. However, is the Bible reliable? How can we know that what we read today is historically accurate? Can we even be confident that what we read today is the same thing that was written roughly 2000 years ago?*

Have you ever wondered about the Bible or asked questions like these about the Bible?

Let's see if we can find some answers to our questions.

Play the video [HERE](#).

Ice Breakers:

- What is the greatest event that you've been an eyewitness for?
- If you could be an eyewitness for 1 event in the Bible, which would you choose? Why?

Discussion Starters:

- What were the four areas of evidence for the reliability of the Bible discussed in today's video? Summarize these.
- Which of these arguments seems most powerful to you? Which one seems less convincing?
- What questions do you still have about the Bible and its reliability?

Scripture: Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 as a group and consider the questions below.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper:

- What were some of Peter's arguments for the reliability of Scripture written here?
- How do Peter's words here in 2 Peter 1 support what we heard in today's video? What do both have in common? How are they different?
- According to Peter, what is the purpose of the prophetic messages written for us in the Bible?
 - (Verse 19 suggest that it is to enlighten our hearts. Notice that the focus is on our hearts and not our minds.) What do you think Peter might be communicating by this?
- How has God enlightened your heart through the Bible? How has your heart been touched, or your life been changed by the stories and truths found in the Bible?
- Would you consider this type of encounter with God or life transformation through his Word to be a type of evidence that the Bible is truly God's word and is powerful for changing lives?

Application:

- Based on what we've learned about the Bible today, how should we treat/handle the Bible?
- The best way to experience the presence and power of God through the Bible is to read it! Would you be interested in learning more about a YouVersion Bible Reading Plan?



Closing activity & prayer: choose 1 of the following options to close your time together.

- SINGING: Sing [Your Word](https://youtu.be/VU_rGEbLDuk) by Hillsong (https://youtu.be/VU_rGEbLDuk)
- JOURNALING: Reflect on the words of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and what it might mean in your life now.
 - *"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."*
- SCRIPTURE: Meditate on, memorize, and make this verse your prayer: 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - *"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."*
- PRAYING: Close your group time in prayer for one another. Share prayer requests and assign partners to pray for one another throughout the week.