Why I Trust the Bible

12 defensible apologetic points every Christian can use in everyday conversations

The goal of Christian apologetics is not to win arguments but to give thoughtful reasons for our faith while demonstrating the character of Christ.

As 1 Peter 3:15 teaches, we should always be prepared to give a reason for our hope, doing so with gentleness and respect.

Here are 12 points that an average Christian can confidently use when someone asks, "Why do you believe the Bible is true?"

1. The Bible describes real people, places, and events.

What you can say:

> "I trust the Bible partly because it describes real history. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of kings, cities, and events mentioned in Scripture. It isn't simply a collection of stories disconnected from the ancient world."

Evidence: The Tel Dan Stele refers to the House of David. The Pilate Stone confirms Pontius Pilate's historical existence and office. Assyrian inscriptions describe King Sennacherib's campaign against Judah.

Scripture: 2 Kings 18–19; Luke 3:1.

Remember: Archaeology confirms many biblical details, not every event or miracle.

2. The Bible has been preserved remarkably well.

What you can say:

> "We don't have to guess what the Bible said centuries ago. We have thousands of ancient manuscripts that scholars can compare to determine what the original authors most likely wrote."

Evidence: The Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrate substantial preservation of Hebrew biblical texts over many centuries. Thousands of Greek New Testament manuscripts, together with ancient translations, provide extensive evidence for reconstructing the text.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35.

Remember: Manuscripts contain differences, but scholars can identify and study them. Accurate preservation does not, by itself, prove divine inspiration.

3. The Bible was written close to many of the events it describes.

What you can say:

> "The New Testament wasn't written hundreds of years after Jesus. Its books were written during the first century, when people who knew the earliest Christian movement were still alive."

Evidence: Paul's letters were written approximately 20–35 years after Jesus' crucifixion. The Gospels are generally dated between approximately 65 and 100 CE, although individual dates are debated.

Scripture: Luke 1:1–4; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8.

Remember: Some biblical books describe events long before their final composition. This argument is strongest for the New Testament.

4. Jesus was a real historical person.

What you can say:

> "Jesus isn't just a character in a religious book. Historians overwhelmingly agree that he existed and was crucified under Pontius Pilate. Even ancient non-Christian writers refer to him or the movement he founded."

Evidence: The Roman historian Tacitus refers to Christ's execution under Pontius Pilate. The Jewish historian Josephus also discusses Jesus, although one of his passages contains later Christian additions.

Scripture: Matthew 27; Mark 15.

Remember: Jesus' historical existence is well supported. His divine identity is a further claim.

5. Belief in Jesus' resurrection began very early.

What you can say:

> "One reason I take Christianity seriously is that belief in Jesus' resurrection wasn't invented centuries later. His earliest followers were already proclaiming it within the first generation."

Evidence: In 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, Paul passes along an earlier tradition about Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and appearances.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3–8.

Remember: Early testimony establishes what Christians believed and proclaimed. Whether the resurrection occurred is the historical and theological question that follows.

6. The Bible contains prophecies written before Jesus was born.

What you can say:

> "What fascinates me is that writings such as Isaiah existed before Jesus, yet Christians see remarkable connections between those passages and his life."

Evidence: The Dead Sea Scrolls confirm that Isaiah was circulating before Christianity. Isaiah 53, Micah 5:2, and Zechariah 9:9 are important examples of passages Christians interpret as pointing toward Jesus.

Scripture: Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9.

Remember: Jewish and Christian interpreters disagree about the meaning of some prophecies. Explain why you see fulfillment rather than claiming every interpretation is undisputed.

7. The Bible is remarkably unified despite its many authors.

What you can say:

> "The Bible was written by different authors across many centuries, yet I see one remarkable story running through it: God's desire to restore humanity to a relationship with Himself."

Evidence: Themes of covenant, holiness, sacrifice, forgiveness, God's presence, and restoration recur throughout the biblical books.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1–3; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Luke 24:27; Revelation 21:3.

Remember: This is an argument about theological coherence, not proof that the Bible contains no difficult passages or apparent contradictions.

8. The Bible doesn't hide the failures of its heroes.

What you can say:

> "One thing I find compelling is that the Bible doesn't portray its leaders as flawless. David commits adultery and murder, Peter denies Jesus, and even the disciples struggle with unbelief. The writers weren't simply trying to make everyone look good."

Evidence: David's wrongdoing appears in 2 Samuel 11–12, Peter's denial in Luke 22, and the disciples' failures throughout the Gospels.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:7–13; Luke 22:54–62.

Remember: Honest-looking portrayals can support a text's credibility, but fictional and theological literature can also portray flawed heroes.

9. The Bible can be investigated rather than accepted blindly.

What you can say:

> "My faith doesn't require me to ignore historical evidence. I can examine ancient manuscripts, archaeological discoveries, and the historical setting of Scripture. Christianity makes claims that invite investigation."

Evidence: Archaeology, manuscript comparison, ancient history, and textual criticism all provide ways to evaluate biblical claims.

Scripture: Luke 1:1–4; Acts 17:11.

Remember: Some biblical claims can be tested historically; others concern spiritual or supernatural realities that archaeology cannot directly verify.

10. The earliest Christians were willing to suffer for their testimony.

What you can say:

> "The first Christians proclaimed Jesus even when it brought persecution. That doesn't automatically make their beliefs true, but it gives me reason to take their sincerity seriously."

Evidence: Paul's letters describe his suffering for the Christian message. Early sources also attest to the persecution and deaths of some prominent Christians.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:23–27; Philippians 1:12–14.

Remember: People of many religions have suffered for sincerely held beliefs. Martyrdom demonstrates conviction, not necessarily truth. Detailed martyrdom stories about every apostle are not equally well documented.

11. The Bible's teaching about human nature is compelling.

What you can say:

> "The Bible describes humanity in a way I recognize. We're capable of remarkable love and terrible selfishness. We long for justice, forgiveness, purpose, and belonging. The Bible speaks directly to those realities."

Evidence: Scripture consistently addresses human moral conflict, guilt, forgiveness, reconciliation, and the desire for meaning.

Scripture: Romans 3:23; Romans 7:15–25; Ecclesiastes 3:11.

Remember: This is a philosophical and experiential reason for trust, not independent archaeological proof.

12. The Bible has changed my life and the lives of others.

What you can say:

> "Beyond the historical evidence, I trust Scripture because its teachings have shaped how I live, love, forgive, and relate to God. I don't expect my experience alone to prove the Bible to you, but it's part of why I believe."

Evidence: Personal testimony, changed behavior, reconciliation, and long-term spiritual formation.

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 15:4–5.

Remember: Other religions also report transformative experiences. Personal testimony is most compelling when combined with historical evidence and a life consistent with Christ's teaching.

Five common challenges and conversational responses

Challenge	A reasonable Christian response
"The Bible has been changed so many times."	"There are textual variants, but we have ancient manuscripts that let us examine those changes. The evidence doesn't support the idea that the entire Bible was repeatedly rewritten beyond recognition."
"The Bible is just a book written by men."	"I agree that human authors wrote it. The Christian claim is that God worked through those authors. The question is whether there's good reason to believe that claim."
"How do you know Christianity is true and not another religion?"	"I would begin with Jesus. His existence and crucifixion are historically well established, and his followers proclaimed his resurrection very early. I think that testimony deserves serious investigation."
"Doesn't the Bible contradict itself?"	"There are difficult passages and differences between accounts. I think we should examine specific examples carefully rather than pretending none exist or assuming every difference disproves the whole Bible."
"Science has disproved the Bible."	"Science has challenged some traditional interpretations of biblical passages, particularly about origins and chronology. But science doesn't address every historical, philosophical, or theological question. I'd be interested in which specific claim you're referring to."

A 60-second response anyone can remember

Why do I trust the Bible?

"I trust the Bible for several reasons.

First, it's grounded in real history. Archaeology has confirmed many of the people, places, and events it describes.

Second, we have ancient manuscripts that allow us to examine how faithfully the Scriptures have been preserved.

Third, Jesus was a real historical person who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and belief in His resurrection began very early.

Fourth, I see a remarkable story throughout Scripture of God's love, humanity's need for redemption, and His desire to restore us to Himself.

And finally, I've experienced the difference that following Jesus and His teachings makes in my own life.

I don't claim that every question about the Bible has been answered, but I believe there are strong reasons to trust it. My faith isn't based on evidence alone, but it isn't blind faith either."

The most important principle: Lead people to Jesus

Christian apologetics should ultimately lead beyond arguments about manuscripts and archaeology.

Jesus said:

> "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

The purpose of defending Scripture is not merely to convince someone that an ancient document is reliable. It is to help them consider the person to whom the Christian Scriptures testify.

For an everyday conversation, I would encourage Christians to remember just four words:

History. Manuscripts. Jesus. Transformation.

These provide a simple, defensible framework for explaining why they trust the Bible, while leaving room for sincere questions, intellectual humility, and the work of the Holy Spirit.