



Sermon Discussion Guide

How Can I Really Know The Bible Isn't a Fake?

David Welch
April 18, 2021

“As God’s Spirit works within us, we are being transformed to become more like Christ. This change, from one degree of glory to another, comes from the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

Every Christian should seek to know their faith, but we can’t expect to know everything at once. God wants you to know Him deeply. This guide will help you better understand the reality of your faith to better share it with friends, family, and your community.

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

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
1 Peter 3:15

1. How prepared do you feel to answer the question, “How can you believe in that thing, isn’t the bible filled with errors”? Have you seen areas in scripture that might seem like an error at first glance?
2. Of the four areas of biblical reliability Pastor Dave mentioned in last week’s message makes the most sense to you? Explain why.

The Copy Is Reliable (textual criticism), The Copy Is Consistent (literary criticism), The Collection Is Extraordinary (tradition criticism), The Calculations Are Astonishing (form criticism)
3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living.” How has scripture impacted your understanding of God? Has scripture corrected a view about Jesus you might have once held?
4. The apostle Paul describes his conversion on the Damascus road in both Acts 9:7 and Acts 22:9. Read them both and explain how they can both be true. (*Hint: the answer is in the Greek word Akuo*)
5. Jesus fulfilled over 60 messianic prophecies that predicted his coming: a statistical impossibility. Some say that the writers of the new testament manipulated the prophecies and the accounts of Jesus to prove Him as the coming Messiah. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 What are some ways this cannot be true?
6. If the bible isn’t fake, then God’s promises are true. Read Jeremiah 29:11 then discuss the impact of that kind of promise on your life.
7. If the bible isn’t fake, then how does knowing that affect the way you live?



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

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

- This 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, 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.