

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **THE GOOD BOOK - Part 4**

Why You Can Trust the Bible

October 9, 2016



Connect (10min)

Open in Prayer

***Option 1: Our Stories** -- Have 2-3 people share the 'coles-notes' version of their story (5-7min each).

[I was born in _____. I grew up in _____. My family growing up was _____ (parents/siblings...). I first heard about Jesus through _____. I became a Christian _____. My family now is _____ (single, married, kids...). For work/school I _____.]

For fun or to relax & recharge I like to _____.]

***Option 2: What is 1 Highlight from Thanksgiving Weekend for you?**

Check-In (5-10min)

***Where have you been reading in the Bible this past week?** (eg. Good Book Reading Plan or Other)

What are 1 or 2 things you learned, or that challenged you, or that encouraged you?

***What is 1 thing/area that you've been praying about or for in your personal relationship with God?**

What is 1 way He has spoken to you or answered you in through these prayers?

Sunday Message Feedback (30-40min)

***REMINDER! [Set Free Retreat](#) is coming up, Oct.20-21.**

1. 2 Truths & a Lie: Have each Group member share two true things and one false thing about themselves, or something they've done (the goal in this game is to try to deceive the group).

After 1 person shares have the group vote for which one is false.

2. [John 18:38](#) – “What is Truth?” Pilate asked.

Do you think it is hard to know the truth in the culture we live? Why/why not?

How have things changed in your life time? Are there things that people believed to be true at one time and now no longer are true? What are some examples? Discuss.

3. Honest Questions

Shawn talked about the Bible being The Standard for Truth - yet many have a hard time explaining why.

a. Do you find it hard to trust the Bible? Why/why not?

i. Should we really believe something just because the Bible tells us so?

ii. What role does the Bible play in your faith? If you read it, why do you read it?

iii. What does it contribute to your relationship with God?

b. Do you find that people (including yourself) apply the same criteria (questions, expectations, skepticism...) to other historical documents or teaching? Why or why not?

4. **Shawn gave some reasons on why we can Trust the Bible.** Do you remember what they were?
- What is **Manuscript Evidence**? How does it support the credibility of the Bible?
 - What is **Archaeological Evidence**? How does it support the Historical Accuracy of the Bible?
 - How do we deal with “new information” that arises that contradicts the Bible record?

(Optional) *Six Lines of Testimony that Begin with the Letter ‘E’*

Early Testimony Eyewitness Testimony ‘Embarrassing’ Testimony
Excruciating Testimony Expected Testimony Extra-Biblical Testimony

Watch this (2min YouTube) Video – with Frank Turek - for Explanation: [Is the Bible Historically Reliable?](#)

Food-for-Thought:

“Before the Old and New Testaments were combined and called the Bible, the debate about the Christian faith centered on an event, not a book. We believe Jesus rose from the dead, but not (just) because the Bible says so. We believe because of the testimony of eyewitnesses who gave up everything— including their lives—because of their confidence in Jesus.” – Andy Stanley.

5. **Do you think people may reject the Bible more often because of what it says about them?** Discuss. How has the Bible been painfully accurate in your life in what it says about who you are and what you nature is. Has the Bible ever influenced your thoughts or actions? Share some examples.

Read [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) & Discuss -- How can this verse help you trust the Bible?

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.

Application

***What is 1 thing** from Sunday’s message or our Discussion that you can apply to your life or Bible reading this week?

***For further Resources** on the topic of the reliability of The Bible refer to the **Bonus Resources** at the end of this guide, or contact Pastor Eryn at the office.

Continue *The Good Book Bible Reading Plan.

If you have questions or need assistance please ask your Life Group Leader or one of the Pastors.

***Explore & Learn** more about the ‘Grand Story’ weaving through the Bible by engaging these two excellent resources: (Both are helpful for Kids & Adults alike)

- The Bible Project:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject>. <https://jointhebibleproject.com/about>
- The Storybook Bible** by Sally Lloyd-Jones. (Book, Audio-book, DVD videos)
: available on Amazon.ca or through Christian bookstores.

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Prayer (15-20min) - THANK GOD

[1 Thessalonians 5:18](#) – *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

As a Group - Take 5-10min to THANK GOD for WHO HE IS & WHAT HE HAS DONE. Use these short examples...

JESUS, Thank You for being _____. Thank you for _____ me. Thank You for _____...

[Note: Silence is OK. Invite/Encourage everyone to participate together, as they feel comfortable.]

Pray for One Another - Take 10min to pray for the specific needs of the people in your Group.

[Optional Scripture References: 1 Timothy 2:1. Ephesians 6:18. Philippians 4:6. Colossians 1:9. Romans 15:30. Matthew 5:44]

BONUS Resources - On the Reliability of Scripture

The One Minute Apologist (YouTube Channel) - www.youtube.com/user/oneminuteapologist

Examples of the short (2min) videos available:

[How To Develop An Appetite For Bible Study](#)

[Is The Bible Without Error In Science and History?](#)

[Are The Gospels Written By Eyewitnesses?](#)

[How Do We Show Someone The Bible Is Trustworthy?](#)

[How Do We Verify The Validity Of The Gospels?](#)

[How Can I Trust The Bible If Man Wrote It?](#)

[How Can We Be Sure The Right Books Got Into The Bible?](#)

[How Do We Know The Bible Is Historically Accurate?](#)

[Why Don't We Have The Original Scriptures?](#)

[Contradictions in Bible?](#)

Message: *[The Bible Told Me So](#)* (Series: Who Needs God) – with Andy Stanley.

Christian Apologetics – Websites (Covering a variety of Questions & Topics)

[CrossExamined.org](#) – with Dr. Frank Turek. YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/TurekVideo

[Cold-CaseChristianity.com](#) – with J. Warner Wallace

[ApologeticsCanada.com](#) & [Apologetics.com](#)

[The Veritas Forum](#)

[LeeStrobel.com](#)

[RZIM.org](#) – Ravi Zacharias International Ministries.

YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/rzimmedia & <https://www.youtube.com/user/RZIMcanada>

[ReasonableFaith.org](#) – with Dr. William Lane Craig

The ALPHA Course. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/alpha

Books (Available on Amazon.ca & in Christian Bookstores)

[The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism](#) – by Dr. Tim Keller

[The Questions of Life](#) - by Nicky Gumbel (The Alpha Course)

[Mere Christianity](#) – by C.S. Lewis

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Coming Up at Main Street

October 9 (Thanksgiving Sunday)

SPECIAL OFFERING for our **[Hunger to Hope Campaign](#)**.

*Hunger to Hope is our annual Christmas Hamper Campaign. Our goal this season is to raise **\$30,000** to provide **100**

Hampers to families in need in our church and community (with special focus on McCammon & Central Elementary Schools). Donations for H2H will be received until October 31. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/hunger-to-hope

October 20-21

SET FREE Retreat – Friday night & All-Day Saturday. Main Street Chapel.

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

October 30

PRAYER SUMMIT – 6pm-7:30pm. Main Street Auditorium.

*Includes our Kids Summit (for ages 2-Gr.6)

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free