

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **It's Hard to Believe – The Bible is True.** March 13, 2016



Welcome & Prayer

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

* **FATHER GOD** – Thank you for the amazing gift we have in Your written Word, the Bible.

Thank for how it reveals Your character, truth, love, plan & purposes. It is amazing how you've put it together and how it continues to teach, correct, inspire and empower us today. It is your love letter and manual for our lives.

Holy Spirit, please help us to appreciate and apply the Bible more and more in our daily lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Connect

* **What is 1 thing we don't know about you yet?**

Check In

* **What is one area/way that you're growing (or wrestling) in your relationship with GOD these days?**

Sunday Message Feedback

* **What initially impacted you from Sunday's message?**

1. **What is the best book (besides the Bible) you have ever read? Why?**

What made it a good book or story?

What kind of 'literature' do you typically read these days (besides the Bible), and how?

(eg. online articles, magazines/journals, fictional novels, non-fiction, educational, comics, audio-books...)

2. **If you have read it, what is your favorite book, story or verse from the Bible?** Share it and explain why.

When did you first start reading the Bible for yourself? Who introduced you to the Bible?

What would be your favorite or typical time of the day to read the Bible?

3. **The Bible is, hands down, the bestselling book of all time.**

Why do you think it is so popular, and how has it stood the test of time?

4. **In one word how would you describe your initial feelings towards the Bible?**

(amazed, inspired, surprised, encouraged, transformational, confused, bored, indifferent, bothered...)

Have you ever wondered if you could trust the Bible? Discuss.

5. Shawn talked about how the Bible is a unique book. Read out the following areas of uniqueness and ask group members to share which one was new to them or challenged them in regards to understanding the Bible.

The Bible is a unique book...

a. **In its COMPOSITION**

- **Notes:** the Bible was written over a time span of 1500 years by 40 different authors with radically different backgrounds. In fact the *Biblia* (Greek for Bible, which means "books") is really a library that consists of 66 different books, which are divided into two sections. The first section is known as the Old Testament and this tells the story of the Hebrew nation before the time of Jesus coming.

The second part is known as the New Testament and this speaks of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It then goes on and explains the way the Christian faith and church grew and gives us relevant information as to how we should live right now. What is so amazing about this is that it carries an amazing theme of unity that is nothing short of incredible.

b. With regard to its CIRCULATION

- **Notes:** The Bible is without question, the most single published book in the history of the world. Billions have been printed and purchased over the years, and tens of millions continue to be sold and circulated year after year. Show me another book that has stayed on top of the bestseller list for the last two to three hundred years.

c. With its regard to its TRANSLATION

- **Notes:** The Bible is the single most translated book in the world. Even though it has already been translated into over two thousand different languages, an army of full time translators, even as you read this, are at work making it available to still more language groups. No other book comes close to being as widely translated as the Bible.

d. With regard to its DURABILITY

- **Notes:** The Bible has survived bans and burnings; it has survived ridicule and criticism throughout history. Emperors and Kings, princes and rulers have tried to destroy it, but it lives on. People have risked their lives to continue to spread Bibles where they have been banned and made illegal because of its amazing message. In fact the Bible has thrived under persecution - it is unique in its durability.

e. In its effect on PEOPLES LIVES

- **Notes:** People who read the Bible never seem to finish it. Or, if they finish it they go back and start over or read portions of it again. Furthermore, they do not put it on a shelf or pack it in a box; rather, they usually end up carrying it around with them. But it doesn't stop there. People who read the Bible not only read it again and again and carry it around, they also give witness to the fact that the information that they have learned from the Bible has transformed their lives. The teachings of the Bible have altered their view of the world, it changes their relating patterns, their values, their ethics, their vocabulary and their view of eternity

6. Shawn talked about how the Bible is an accurate book by specifically talking about MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE.

Can you remember how to explain manuscript evidence as a proof for the reliability and accuracy of the Bible? Ask group members to explain.

7. After explaining this evidence Shawn said that when it comes to the Bible –

WHAT YOU ARE READING IS WHAT WAS WRITTEN! Are you convinced of this statement? Why? Why not?

8. When the Bible was formulated the early church leaders had **three criterion that a letter or book had to pass in order to make it into the Canon of Scripture:**

- a. Apostolic Authority** - Books had to be written by someone who was an Apostle or an eye witness
- b. Congruency** – Was what was written consistent with what early Christians believed to be true?
- c. Acceptance** - Was the letter or writing clearly accepted in the early church?

How do these criterion help make sure the Bible that we have is the Bible God wanted us to have? Discuss.

9. Shawn concluded the message by talking about how the Bible speaks to us personally and how this is also an evidence for trusting it as the Word of God.

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.

Application & Prayer

Read **2 Timothy 3:16** out loud as a Group:

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.

- **How can you apply this verse in your life? Where do you need to apply it in our life?**
- Challenge your group to **Read** the **Gospel of Luke for the next 24 days** as their personal devotions. (Luke has 24 chapters). As they do encourage them to ask Jesus to show them that His Word can be trusted.
*Pick up a **SCOOP** Bookmark from Guest Services, or the Church Office as a tool to apply to each chapter.
- **Ask** God to help you remember what we studied so you can explain the reliability of the Bible to others when they ask you.
- **Pray** that the Word of God would come alive in each group member's heart and that they would be hungry and disciplined to read the Bible this month. (Pray for the person on your right)

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Bible Tools

YouVersion Bible App (inc. reading plans) <https://www.youversion.com>

Bible Gateway (web&app) <https://www.biblegateway.com>

OpenBible (topical search) <http://www.openbible.info/topics>

The Bible Project <https://jointhebibleproject.com> / <https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject>

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Coming Up at Main Street

*Good Friday & Easter Sunday

Friday, March 25 – 10am Service (1hr).

Includes Communion. Separate Kids program provided up to Gr.4.

Sunday, March 27 – 9am & 10:45am Services.

Regular Kids programs.

*Baptism Celebration

Sunday, April 3rd. 6pm – Main Street Auditorium.

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

*Set Free Retreat (formerly Encounter God)

Fri/Sat, April 8/9. Main Street Chapel.

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