

Lesson 122

We Can Trust the New Testament

The Holy Spirit guided the disciples to record God's words.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who do both the Old Testament AND the New Testament tell us about?
Jesus, our Savior.
Why was Jesus born as a baby? So that he could die to save sinners.
Did Jesus ever do anything wrong (sin)? No. Jesus is perfect with no sin.
Who is Jesus? Jesus is God the Son.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Today, we are going to look into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. I want everyone to count with me up to the number _____. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) As we say each number (or word), you will carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Hand the Bible to the first student. Here we go!

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Let's start with a quick review. The Seven C's of History help us remember the big events in the Bible.

Which C's took place in the Old Testament? Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion. Briefly review these events.
Which C's happened in the New Testament? Christ and Cross.
The seventh C hasn't happened yet. What is it called? Consummation.

The Consummation is when Jesus will make a new heaven and a new earth for those who have put their trust in him to save them from their sins.

Refer to the Lesson 121 Flip Chart. All through the Old Testament, God had a plan. He spoke of a Savior who would come to save sinners. But we read about how this happened in the New Testament. The whole Bible is important because it is all connected to tell us about Jesus.

Have the prepared papers and other supplies ready for the object lesson.

Print and follow the instructions to prepare the Invisible Ink Object Lesson lettered papers the night before. Bring papers with invisible ink letters and other supplies. To start today's lesson, we're going to reveal a secret word written in invisible ink! Follow the instructions for students to reveal the invisible ink message, "True."

Today we're going to look at the New Testament and find out how we know the New Testament is true.

Written by Eyewitnesses

One reason we know the New Testament is true is because a lot of it was written by eyewitnesses.

What is an eyewitness? It has something to do with your eyes. Allow guesses.

An eyewitness is someone who sees something happen. Then when they tell what they saw, that's called a testimony.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. John was one of Jesus' disciples and closest friends. The disciples were 12 men who followed Jesus as he traveled around Israel teaching about the kingdom of God and doing many miracles. John was an eyewitness who wrote about the things he saw Jesus do. He watched as Jesus healed people and listened as Jesus taught them.

John 19:35

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look at what John said in the Gospel of John chapter 19. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and turn to the sticky note. Read the verse.

What did John say about his testimony of the things he saw; was it true or just made-up? It was true.

John knew he was telling the truth about Jesus and wrote about it so those who read it may what? Believe.

John wanted his readers to know that he had walked with Jesus—he saw what Jesus did, heard what he said, and learned from him. John knew that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior who would save people from their sins. And he wanted others to know that, too.

2 Peter 1:16

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. There were 12 disciples, so we know John wasn't the only eyewitness. Let's turn to the book of 2 Peter. Like John, Peter was a disciple and very close friend of Jesus, and he wrote this book. Listen to 2 Peter 1:16. Read the verse.

Peter said that he and the other disciples were not making up stories about Jesus. They were telling the truth!

Peter also wrote so people would know about the Lord Jesus Christ. He said he and the other disciples were what? Eyewitnesses (of Jesus' majesty).

Peter was an eyewitness just like John. He also followed Jesus and saw him do many great things. And then Peter saw Jesus again after he rose from the dead! This is Peter's testimony.

We can trust what the New Testament says about Jesus because eyewitnesses wrote about things that he really did. These men weren't making up stories. They walked and talked and ate and prayed with Jesus. They were Jesus' friends. What they wrote about him is true!

Written with the Holy Spirit's Help

But how did these men know what to write? Let's find out. We're going to go back to the book of John chapter 14.

John 14:26

I'll read John 14:26. This is something Jesus told his disciples when he knew he wouldn't be with them much longer. Read the verses.

Jesus said the Father would send the Helper. Who was that? The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of truth. He would be a teacher and a helper so the disciples could write the truth about Jesus and what he did.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Do you know? Allow discussion.

Show the Illustration. He is part of the Trinity. The word Trinity means there are three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Have students repeat after you.

Each of these three IS God. But the Father is NOT the Son. The Son is NOT the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is NOT the Father. They are separate persons, but they are all ONE God. This is hard for people to understand. But we know it is true because we read about it in God's Word. And we know that God cannot lie!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Jesus, God the Son, promised his disciples that God the Father would send the Holy Spirit to help them write the truth so that people like us could know all about him. Since God doesn't make mistakes, and since he was the one helping these writers, we know the New Testament is true!

Not all the New Testament was written by the disciples who were with Jesus. A lot of it was written by another man named Paul who didn't start out as a friend of Jesus—but then Jesus appeared to him! Paul's life changed, and he began to follow Jesus. He preached the good news of Jesus and started churches in many cities. Just like the disciples, Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit to teach and to write exactly what God wanted him to say.

Refer to the message papers on the board. So, how do we know the New Testament is true? First, Jesus' disciples were eyewitnesses—they wrote about what they saw him do and heard him say. And second, the Holy Spirit helped them, and others like Paul, to know what to write so we could read the Bible and learn the truth about Jesus.

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The Consummation is when Jesus will make a new heaven and a new earth for those who have put their trust in him to save them from their sins.

Refer to the Lesson 121 Flip Chart. All through the Old Testament, God had a plan. He spoke of a Savior who would defeat Satan and save sinners.

How did Jesus win against Satan? He died on the cross then rose from the dead.

God talked about this in the Old Testament, but we read about how it happened in the New Testament. The whole Bible is important because it is all connected to tell us about Jesus.

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John knew he was telling the truth about Jesus and wrote about it so those who read it may what? Believe.

John 20:31

Why did John want others to believe what he wrote? Let's find out in John 20:31. Read the verse.

Who did John say Jesus was? He is the Christ, the Son of God. And why was that so important? What would those who believe in Christ have? Life in his name.

John wanted his readers to know that he had walked with Jesus—he saw what Jesus did, heard what he said, and learned from him. John knew that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior who would save people from their sins. And he wanted others to know that, too.

2 Peter 1:16

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. There were 12 disciples, so we know John wasn't the only eyewitness. Let's turn to the book of 2 Peter. Like John, Peter was a disciple and very close friend of Jesus, and he wrote this book. Listen to 2 Peter 1:16. Read the verse.

Peter said that he and the other disciples "did not follow cleverly devised myths" when they spoke and wrote about Jesus. A myth is a made-up story—something that isn't true. Peter was saying the same thing that John said—that what he wrote was the truth. It wasn't made-up!

Peter also wrote so people would know about the Lord Jesus Christ. He said he and the other disciples were what? Eyewitnesses (of Jesus' majesty).

Peter was an eyewitness just like John. He also followed Jesus and saw him do many great things. And then Peter saw Jesus again after he rose from the dead! This is Peter's testimony.

We can trust what the New Testament says about Jesus because eyewitnesses wrote about things that he really did. These men weren't making up stories. They walked and talked and ate and prayed with Jesus. They were Jesus' friends. What they wrote about him is true!

Written with the Holy Spirit's Help

But how did these men know what to write? Let's find out. We're going to go back to the book of John chapter 14.

John 14:25–26

I'll read John 14:25–26. This is something Jesus told his disciples when he knew he wouldn't be with them much longer. Read the verses.

Jesus said the Father would send the Helper. Who was that? The Holy Spirit.

What's the first thing Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do for the disciples? Teach them all things.

And what would he bring to remembrance, or help the disciples remember? All that Jesus said to them.

The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of truth. He would be a teacher and a helper so the disciples could write the truth about Jesus and what he did.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Do you know? Allow discussion.

Show the Illustration. He is part of the Trinity. The word Trinity means there are three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Each of these three IS God. But the Father is NOT the Son. The Son is NOT the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is NOT the Father. Each one is a different and separate person, but they are all ONE God. This is hard for people to understand. But we know it is true because we read about it in God's Word. And we know that God cannot lie!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Jesus, God the Son, promised his disciples that God the Father would send the Holy Spirit to help them write the truth so that people like us could know all about him. Since God doesn't make mistakes, and since he was the one helping these writers, we know the New Testament is true!

We can trust what God has written in his Word because he knows everything! What is the word we've learned that means God knows everything? Omniscient.

God is also wise. That means he does everything perfectly without mistakes. So we can trust what the New Testament says because God is wise and omniscient. He has directed the writing of the Bible perfectly, without mistakes, through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Not all of the New Testament was written by the disciples who were with Jesus. A lot of the New Testament was written by another man who didn't start out as a friend of Jesus. He hated the people who believed in Jesus and was very mean to them—until Jesus appeared to him! This man's name was Saul, later known as Paul. God chose Paul to spread the gospel and teach the believers in the churches he started. Just like the disciples, Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit to write exactly what God wanted him to say.

Refer to the message papers on the board. So, how do we know the New Testament is true? First, Jesus' disciples were eyewitnesses—they wrote about what they saw him do and heard him say. And second, the Holy Spirit helped them, and others like Paul, to know what to write so we could read the Bible and learn the truth about Jesus.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 38.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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