

Study Guide Questions

Series: Asking for a Friend

Message: Is The Bible Reliable?

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15 ... in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

- What questions or doubts have you had (or do you have) about the Bible? Take time to hear and discuss/respond to these questions as a group.
- **Read Genesis 3:1.** Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been casting doubt in the heart of mankind regarding the authority of God's Word. Why do you think this is an important and effective tactic of Satan?
- **Read John 17:17.** Why is the authority of Scripture so important to the Christian faith?

We can trust the Bible historically

- How does the New Testament's citation of witnesses give the Bible credibility?
- Beyond the sources cited within the Bible, what other sources validate the authenticity of the Bible?
- Archaeology does not set out to "prove" the Bible, but in many ways has shown its historical accuracy. Is it important to have a Bible that is historically accurate? Reflect on **John 20:30-31**.
- Have you ever been to Israel to see the history the Bible speaks about firsthand? If so, how did it impact your approach to Scripture? If you have not been, is this something you would see as valuable to your spiritual growth? Why or why not?

We can trust the Bible culturally

- Culture is not static. For example, in America, each decade from the 1960s to present is labeled with very different stereotypes. Today's modern culture looks a lot different than Andy Griffith's Mayberry. When it comes to interpreting the Bible, how important is understanding the culture of the people to whom the work was written?
- When approaching the Bible we should do our best to discern the original intent of the author. This is called "exegesis." The opposite of this is reading our worldview and perspective into the text. This is called "eisegesis" and leads to poor or incorrect Bible interpretation. How do we prevent reading our own personal bias, experiences, and worldview into Scripture?
- Take some time to share and reflect on a few of your own personal biases, experiences, and worldview that may be impacting your reading of Scripture.
- Jesus was born in Israel and lived as a Jew. He was not Irish, Korean, or German. How do you think the culture Jesus lived in shaped His actions and message?
- While the message of Scripture was given to a specific people in a specific time and place, that message speaks beyond the culture it was given to. In what ways is God still challenging you through His Word?
- Since the Bible is historically and culturally accurate, in your opinion does this give more credibility to the message it shares?
- **Read Luke 16:31.** This passage speaks to the sufficiency of Scripture. How can you engage others in reading the Bible?

COURAGE

