



If the Bible is True, Why So Much Doubt?

August 23, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: 1 Peter 3:13–17, Luke 1:1–4, Mark 8:27–30

Peter doesn't tell followers of Jesus to fear difficult questions. Instead, we're called to set Christ apart as Lord, understand the reason for our hope, and be prepared to share it with others—with **gentleness and respect**.

Understand the Moment

We regularly encounter confident voices telling us why the Bible can't be trusted. Instead of fearing those claims, Scripture encourages us to investigate what we believe.

The message explored three questions: **Is the Bible right, true, and real?** Ancient manuscripts help us examine whether its text was accurately preserved. Eyewitness claims and archaeological discoveries allow its historical claims to be investigated. But evidence isn't the Bible's final destination.

Scripture ultimately brings us face-to-face with Jesus and His question: **"Who do you say I am?"** The goal isn't simply knowing more about the Bible. It's allowing God's truth to transform how we live.

Process Together or Alone

- What questions or doubts about the Bible have you wrestled with?
- Why can confident claims on social media or documentaries sometimes shake our faith?
- What's the difference between knowing Scripture is historically trustworthy and allowing it to transform your life?
- Why do you think Peter includes "gentleness and respect" when telling Christians to defend their hope?
- How would you answer someone who asked, "Why do you trust the Bible?"

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What is God showing you about your confidence in His Word?
- Is there a question or doubt He's inviting you to investigate more deeply?

Obey

- What can you do this week to better understand why you believe what you believe?
- How can Scripture move from information you know to truth you actually live?

Share

- Who could you have an honest conversation with about Jesus or the Bible?
- How can you share the reason for your hope with gentleness and respect?

Care

- Who in your life is wrestling with doubt or questions about Christianity?
- How can you listen to them, pray for them, and create a safe place for their questions?



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Live It Out

Write down this question:

Why do I believe the Bible?

Try answering it without simply saying, "because I was raised Christian" or "because the Bible says it's true." Then write down one question about Scripture you don't currently know how to answer. Spend time this week learning more about it.

Finally, ask yourself the question Jesus asked His disciples:

"Who do you say I am?"

Remember: **Knowing why you believe matters—but the purpose of Scripture is ultimately to lead you to Jesus and transform your life.**

Pray

- Thank God for preserving His Word and using it to reveal Jesus to us.
- Ask God for wisdom as you investigate difficult questions about Scripture.
- Pray for courage to explain the reason for your hope with gentleness and respect.
- Pray for someone who is doubting, skeptical, or searching for answers about Christianity.
- Ask God to make His Word real in your life so others can see its transforming power through you.

"Thank You for giving us Your Word and for inviting us to seek truth without fear. Give me wisdom to understand why I believe what I believe and humility when I don't know an answer. Help me listen well to those who question Christianity and respond with gentleness and respect. Most importantly, don't let Scripture remain as information in my mind. Use Your Word to transform my heart and life so that everything I believe ultimately leads me closer to Jesus. Amen."

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

If someone asked you today, "Why do you trust the Bible?" how would you answer?

Closing Reflection:

What is one step you can take this week to become better prepared to give a reason for the hope you have in Jesus?