



The Bible Is True

Focus The 66 books of the Bible were written over 1,500 years by 40 different writers. They are consistent with history, congruent with truth, and converge in one Person, Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Fun Play some Bible trivia when starting your group or during a snack time. Below are ten questions about food in the Bible. Options: Have a prize for the person with most correct answers, divide into teams, make up wrong answers for a multiple choice quiz, give them the references and race to find the answers, or make them into a true/false quiz.

1. Who found honey inside the body of a dead lion? Samson. (Judges 14:5–9)
2. Elisha purified a pot of stew that had been poisoned with what? Wild gourds. (2 Kings 4:38–41)
3. What did the devil say Jesus should turn into bread while He fasted in the wilderness? Stones. (Matthew 4:3)
4. Who traded his birthright to his brother for some bread and lentil stew? Esau (Genesis 25:30–34)
5. What insect did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness? Locusts. (Matthew 3:4)
6. What did the widow make for the prophet Elijah? Bread. (1 Kings 17:13)
7. Who woke up under a tree and found an angel had cooked food for him? Elijah. (1 Kings 19:1–8)

8. What type of bird did God provide for Israel in the desert? Quail. (Exodus 16:13)
9. Name one of the foods Moses's spies brought back from Canaan. Grapes, pomegranates, or figs. (Numbers 13:23)
10. When his brothers came to buy food, in whose sack did Joseph place his cup? Benjamin's sack. (Genesis 44:1–2, 11–12)

Review Key Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21

The Bible says so!

If you're a Christian, it's good to know that the Bible provides substantial evidence for its authenticity. Jesus refers to over three fourths of the books in the Old Testament as scripture. The word "scripture" means "inspired." The Bible was written by men, but God-breathed and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

It's amazing!

The fact that all 66 books line up in content and were written by over 40 men over a time span of 1,500 years is amazing. There are over 50 Messianic prophecies from over 300 references in the Bible. There is a 1 in 10¹⁷ chance that all 8 of the historically proven prophecies could happen. The likelihood of these predicted events taking place is astronomical. Only God is the One who has the power to make it happen.

I know the Author personally!

The entire Bible points to Jesus, and it is our decision to take the step to believe in Him. He fulfilled every prophecy in the Old Testament that was written hundreds of years before. Jesus, the Word, became flesh and lived on this earth. His death and resurrection from the dead have been historically documented. He endured and conquered death for our salvation.

Group Dynamics Idea Building relationships is an important part of Gateway Group meetings, and connections can be made when we pray together. At the end of your discussion time, ask members to break up into groups of two or three to share prayer requests and pray for each other.

Discuss

1. What is your favorite story in the Bible and why?
2. Think of a time when you needed direction, encouragement, or wisdom and you found it in the Bible. What was the situation and how did God's Word effect you?
3. What is your basis for believing the Bible is true?
4. What would you say to a nonbeliever who challenges the historical accuracy of the Bible?
5. How would you share that you know the Author of the Bible?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The Word of God has stood the test of time.
- Jesus referenced the Old Testament as scripture while He was on earth.
- Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection is historically documented.
- The likelihood for biblical prophecy to occur is not attainable by man. Only God could make them happen with complete accuracy.
- The Bible points to a person, Jesus Christ.
- For more information or evidence on the authenticity of the Bible, visit Ravi Zacharias's website (rzim.org) or pick up the book *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell.

Prayer

Lord God, thank You for Your Word. Thank You for revealing the intricate details of Your plan through prophecies in the Bible. Thank You for the evidence that Your Word is true. Help us to spend time in Your Word and meditate on it even more over the next week. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who is the Word made flesh. All glory and honor are Yours, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip If you are adding new people to your existing group this fall, be sensitive to the vocabulary you use in regards to new people. Try to avoid phrases like "new to our group" or point out "those of you who are new." Address the entire group as a whole when repeating something for the sake of the new comers. In addition, if you refer to an activity or topic from the past semester, be sure to describe it in full when you make the reflection so newcomers don't feel out of the loop.