**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Why is the Bible relevant to me?**

*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. (*[*2 Timothy 3:16*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.16)*)*

 *Let’s be honest—the Bible can feel confusing. It’s a collection of sixty-six different books written in three different languages by over forty different authors spanning multiple genres and time periods. Some issues in the Bible appear foreign compared to the issues we face in our world today. So, how does the Bible apply to us? In these sessions, we’ll look at what the Bible really is and how it is vital for us as we follow Jesus.*

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| **You Will Need*** Optional: Four pieces of paper labeled A, B, C, and D

**Getting Ready*** Optional: Place one of the papers labeled A, B, C, D in each corner of the room.
* First time leading *Learn* for Youth? Look here for the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf).
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**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.*

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| **QUESTION**If you could eliminate one subject from school forever, what would it be and why? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for the gift of His Word. Thank God that it’s timeless, useful, and directly inspired by Him. Ask God to make Scripture come alive in the hearts and lives of students. Pray that He would use it to guide their everyday lives.*

**Introduction**

Today, we’re looking at the Bible and how it applies to our everyday lives. Let’s dive in and see how God speaks to us through Scripture and how we can trust it wholeheartedly in our lives today.

**Group Activity**

**Interesting Bible Trivia**

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| **You Will Need*** Optional: Four pieces of paper labeled A, B, C, and D

**Getting Ready*** Optional: Place one of the papers labeled A, B, C, D in each corner of the room.
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Before we look deeper into the Bible, let’s see how much you know about some of its crazier stories! I’ll ask you some multiple-choice questions from these stories. You’ll answer by going to the corner of the room that corresponds with your choice.

• *If you choose not to label four corners of the room with A, B, C, and D, make sure that students know which corner corresponds with each answer. You can reiterate this with every question.*

• *Answers to each question are shown in bold text.*

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| **QUESTION**About how many authors were involved in writing the Bible? (A: Less than 10, B: 24, C: 36, **D: Over 40)** |

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| **QUESTION**The Book of Acts contains a story of a young man who fell asleep during a sermon, fell out of a third-story window, and died, only to be raised back to life immediately after. Who was preaching this long-winded sermon? (A: Jesus, **B: Paul**, C: Peter, D: Moses) |

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| **QUESTION**How old was the oldest person recorded in the Bible? (**A: 969 years**, B: 141 years, C: 200 years, D: 550 years) By the way, his name was Methuselah. |

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| **Question**In Numbers chapter [22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Nu22), God used a talking animal to get His point across to a man named Balaam. What was the talking animal? (A: Goat, B: Lion, C: Cat, **D: Donkey**) Interestingly, cats are not mentioned in the Bible. |

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| **QUESTION**Which of those facts from the Bible was most surprising to you? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever encountered something in the Bible that was weird or hard to believe? If so, what was it? |

This Book, with so many different authors, was written to different cultures and different people with different issues. It contains many hard-to-believe stories. But the Bible is absolutely necessary to show us how to follow Jesus. Today, let’s take a look at why we can trust every truth in this Book. They are directly from God and completely trustworthy. Let’s begin with this video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Let’s begin by looking at an example of just how trustworthy God’s Word is. The Bible shows us that we can trust God will do what He says.

**The Bible Proves God Is Trustworthy**

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever heard the word prophecy? If so, what comes to mind when I say it? |

The passage we’re about to read is a prophecy about Jesus. A very simple definition of prophecy is God giving a person a specific message He wants them to tell others. Sometimes it reveals info that the person didn’t already know about the present. But sometimes it’s info about the future. That was the case in what we’re about to read. God gave Isaiah specific details about Jesus before He was born and lived on the earth as a man. Let’s look at the Old Testament Book of Isaiah, written about seven hundred years prior to Jesus’ birth.

Read [Isaiah 7:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is7.14).

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| **QUESTION**What specific details did Isaiah prophesy about the baby who would be born? |

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| **QUESTION**The prophecy states that He should be called (not named) Immanuel. What does Immanuel mean? |

With that in mind, read [Luke 1:26–38](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.26-38).

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| **QUESTION**What details about Jesus’ birth do we learn from Luke? |

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| **QUESTION**How does what we read in Luke tie in with Isaiah’s prophecy? |

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| **QUESTION**Read [Luke 1:37](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.37) again. The angel states the Word of God never fails. What does this verse tell us about God’s Word for us today? |

Remember, Jesus was born about seven hundred years after Isaiah prophesied about the Savior to come. Yet He still fit the exact details of this prophecy and many more. The Bible is so much more than just an old book. Let’s take a look at how the Bible is *trustworthy*, *inspired by God*, and *applicable to our lives*.

**The Bible Can Be Trusted**

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| **QUESTION**How does Isaiah’s prophecy give you the confidence to trust the Bible’s accuracy? |

Prophecies like Isaiah’s about the coming Messiah are just one example of many in the Bible. They show that the Bible is both accurate and can be trusted.

Read [2 Peter 1:20–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Pe1.20-21).

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| **QUESTION**What are these verses saying regarding Isaiah’s prophecy and other prophecies we read in the Bible? |

Peter pointed out that the writings in Scripture of people like Isaiah aren’t stuff they made up. Everything in there came from God’s Holy Spirit. The Bible isn’t just prophecies, though. We can also have confidence in it because a lot of it is eyewitness testimony.

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| **QUESTION**Imagine for a moment that a 100 percent verifiable, documented miracle happened at church last Sunday. The problem is, you weren’t there when it happened. What kind of questions would you have about the miracle? |

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| **QUESTION**In order to get the best, most trustworthy answers to these questions, who would you want to talk to first? |

The most trustworthy information about an event always comes from the people who were there in person. The stories in the Bible are no different. When eyewitnesses testify about an event, it usually adds to the trustworthiness of what they say happened. With that in mind, listen to how Luke starts off his Gospel account.

Read [Luke 1:1–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.1-4).

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| **QUESTION**According to verse [4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.4), why does Luke put so much emphasis on his careful investigation of the facts? |

**The Bible Is Different from Other Books Because It’s God-Inspired**

The Bible is true and trustworthy, but it’s different from any other nonfiction book, too. While the Bible has over forty human authors, there’s one God who was guiding and inspiring the entire process for each of the individual authors. That’s why we call it “God’s Word.”

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| **QUESTION**Reread [Isaiah 7:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is7.14). Who does Isaiah say that the sign will come from? |

Mary knew that what was prophesied was from God, not just mere human words. That’s why she knew it would come true ([Luke 1:37](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.37)). All Scripture is considered the Word of God, from the first word in Genesis until the final word in Revelation.

**The Bible Helps Me Today**

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| **QUESTION**How should it change the way we read the Bible when we see it as God’s inspired Word for our lives today and not just words and thoughts from human authors? |

The Bible tells us about things that happened long ago, like Isaiah’s prophecy about the coming Messiah. But that isn’t all it does. God also speaks to us through His Word in a way that directly applies to our lives today.

Read [2 Timothy 3:14–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.14-17).

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| **QUESTION**What are the four ways that Paul says Scripture is useful in the life of a believer? |

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| **QUESTION**God is ready to speak to us through His Word, but we often neglect it and lose the benefit of it in our lives. What are some of the main reasons that we neglect God’s Word? |

**Did You Know?**

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| The journey of the Bible from God’s inspiration to our hands is quite a long one! Each book in our Bible met serious requirements from ancient Jews and early Christians. They recognized these writings as authentic messages from God to all His followers, for all time.Though these books were accepted as God’s Word, they weren’t accessible to many people because of language barriers. The Scriptures were mostly written in Greek and Hebrew. Bringing the Bible into other languages required lifetimes of work as well as political and social challenges. It’s no stretch to say that people gave up their lives (even as martyrs) to bring God’s Word into languages we can understand. And the result of their hard work is a trustworthy collection that faithfully passes on God’s eternal message to His people. |

**Reflect**

**The Bible Is God’s Word**

Just like an athlete needs the proper training tools to be successful, believers also need the right tools to become fully equipped for the journey of faith. One of the most important tools in our relationship with God is His Word. The Bible is completely trustworthy, inspired by God, and directly applicable to things that we face on a daily basis.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we’ve read and shared. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**What’s your biggest struggle with consistently spending time with God’s Word, and why? |

[Second Timothy 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.16) reminds us that Scripture has some specific purposes in our lives. Sometimes Scripture is useful to teach us what is true. Sometimes God uses it to correct us and show us what’s wrong in our lives.

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| **QUESTION**Examine your own life for a moment. Are there areas where you need guidance from God? Is there part of your life where God may want to gently correct you because you’ve wandered off course? |

**Activate**

It’s one thing to say that God’s Word is trustworthy. It’s another thing to put it to the test in your own life. Ask God for the Holy Spirit’s help to apply what we have talked about today and to guide you this week as you develop the habit of spending time with God’s Word.

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| **QUESTION**What time of day works best for you to spend time in God’s Word? |

I challenge everyone to engage in the five personal devotions this week. Each one takes about ten minutes. Let’s see if we can have everyone do all five!

**Conclusion**

One of the biggest lessons we can learn from Mary’s response to the angel is her complete trust in God and in His Word. She knew that God’s Word would never fail her. Just like Mary, we can put our trust in God and lean on His Word for the guidance we need.

Next time we’ll talk more about how we can listen to God through His Word. The personal devotions for this week will help you understand and apply that, too.

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*All of the Bible is one connected story about God’s desire to interact with us. He wants a relationship with us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us on a cross and then to rise from the dead three days later.We don’t devote ourselves to the Bible to make us Christians. We devote ourselves to the Bible because we want to hear from our God who loves us so much. He loves you as an individual more than you could ever know, and He wants to be in relationship with you for the rest of your life.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Prayer**

Father God, thank You that You never break a promise or go back on Your Word. Help us all to fully trust in Your Word and to be students who are committed to Scripture as our trustworthy guide through life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Don’t forget the personal devotions provided for you on your app. These allow you to have time with Jesus to learn more about what we discussed. I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue our journey through God’s Word.