**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. Also, 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**No supplies needed.**Getting Ready*** 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**What’s been the best part of your week? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for everyone in the group. Thank Him for His Word and the way that it applies to our lives. Ask that as your group learns to be disciplined in their study of Scripture, God would make it come alive as something they enjoy and delight in.*

**Introduction**

Today we’re talking more about the Bible. Remember, the Bible is not just human words. It’s God’s Word to us. Let’s talk about how we can know that God’s Word is *true* and the best way to respond to that truth.

**Group Activity**

**Two Truths, One Not**

Since we’re talking about what’s true today, let’s find out what’s true about you with a little game called “Two Truths, One Not.” The rules are simple. Everyone in the group will take turns and introduce themselves. When it’s your turn to introduce yourself, say two interesting things that are true about you and one thing that isn’t true. But don’t tell us which one isn’t true. You can make up something that’s wild and outrageous or simple. You just want it to sound like the truth. After each person shares, we’ll take a vote to guess which of the three facts is the fib.

• *Share an example of your own if the students are not familiar with the activity. Then allow the group to vote on which facts were true and which fact wasn’t.*

• *Go around the room one at a time, letting each student introduce themselves with two truths and one fib. After each student introduces themselves and shares three facts, allow the group to vote on which facts were true and which fact wasn’t.*

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| **QUESTION**Which truth about someone surprised you the most? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**Which fib tricked you the most? Why? |

Games like this are fun, but nobody likes to be lied to in real life. We want to know the truth! It’s the same in our spiritual lives, too. It’s absolutely necessary that we know what’s true and trustworthy, and what isn’t. We’ll find out today why God’s Word is the ultimate source of truth. Let’s begin by watching the video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

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

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| **QUESTION**Finish this sentence: In my own life, I’ve been taught that the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

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| **QUESTION**Who are the main influences in your life who have taught you about the Bible? |

**Jesus Taught from Scripture**

Most of us have been taught something about the Bible. We may have learned about the Bible from family, friends, pastors, videos, or the Internet. Today, we’re going to look at a passage in the Bible where Jesus himself read and talked about the Bible. Let’s see what we can learn about the Bible from Him.

Read [Luke 4:14–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.14-16).

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| **QUESTION**What are some details that you notice about Jesus from this passage? |

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| **QUESTION**What did Jesus read from in the synagogue? |

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| **QUESTION**What does this story show us about what Jesus thought of Scripture? |

Before we look into what Jesus read that day in the synagogue, let’s visit another time when Jesus talked about the Scriptures. Here Jesus shows us the importance of obedience to God’s Word and how to be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Read [Matthew 5:17–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5.17-19).

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| **QUESTION**What is Jesus referring to when He talks about Moses’s law and the prophets’ writings? |

It could be easy for us to ignore the Old Testament as we focus on learning more about Jesus. But Jesus reminds us that the entire Bible is important for us to read.

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| **QUESTION**According to Jesus, what does a person have to do to be called great in the kingdom of heaven? |

If we say that we follow Jesus, that means we’re compelled to follow His Word, too. We can have confidence that the Bible is true because Jesus taught us the Bible is true. But Jesus didn’t *just* teach that the Bible is true. He fulfilled the Bible’s truth in His own life, giving us an example of how to live.

**Jesus Fulfilled Scripture**

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| **QUESTION**What does the word fulfilled mean? What comes to mind when you hear it? |

Read [Luke 4:17–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.17-22).

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| **QUESTION**In this passage, Jesus quoted an Old Testament passage from [Isaiah 61:1–2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is61.1-2). What was Jesus saying about these verses? |

Jesus not only taught from the Scriptures, He also boldly proclaimed that He was the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah’s prophecy from hundreds of years earlier. Jesus saw all of Scripture as one continuous story that all pointed back to God. Jesus came to teach us and show us that the Scriptures are true.

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| **QUESTION**Does anyone know what a prophecy is or what prophecy means? |

We talked a little about this last time. We can think of a prophecy as God giving a prophet information to share with others about something the prophet doesn’t know. Sometimes the info is about right then, but sometimes it’s about the future.

Prophecies about Jesus have been studied by many researchers. As an example, a professor at a college, along with six hundred students, looked at eight prophecies about Jesus. What were the chances that these eight prophecies could come true in one man’s life?

The outcome was an incredible 1017 power! That’s 10 with 17 zeros after it! And that’s just eight prophecies. The Bible records that Jesus fulfilled many more prophecies than this, showing that these prophets who prophesied these things about Jesus were telling the truth. This shows us that the Scriptures are true!

To help give us a picture of what this looks like, imagine the entire state of Texas is covered in two feet of silver dollar coins. Someone then hides a marked silver dollar coin in with the other coins but doesn’t tell anyone where it is. The chances of these eight prophecies coming true and being fulfilled by one man, Jesus, are the same as a blindfolded person picking up the marked coin on the first try!

One purpose of these prophecies is to show that the Scriptures are true. We can know everything the Bible says either has already happened, is happening now, or will happen.

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| **QUESTION**Does hearing this change how you view the Bible? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**How does seeing that some verses in the Bible have already come true deepen your trust in the Bible? |

**We Must Decide to Obey Scripture**

Clearly, Jesus saw the Scriptures as true and authoritative. Knowing what Jesus thought about the Bible isn’t enough though. We have to decide for ourselves if we’ll trust and obey God’s Word.

Read [2 Timothy 4:2–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.2-4).

What Paul wrote in these verses is as real today as the day he wrote it. It’s tempting to find people who will tell you what you want to hear. It’s tempting to ignore the truth and do whatever you want. But that’s not what a follower of Jesus does. Real followers do what He did, and they look to God’s Word for truth.

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| **QUESTION**Do you think most Christians today obey God’s Word? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**What can we do to help people grow in their obedience to God’s Word? *(See verse* [*2*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.2)*.)* |

**Reflect**

**The Bible Is True**

It’s easy to talk about the Bible in a group like this. It’s another thing to make the personal decision to trust the truth of Scripture for yourself. No one can make that decision for you. Jesus warned us of the consequences for those who ignore the Bible’s teaching or turn away from it ([Matthew 5:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5.19)). Rather than turning away from God’s Word, I hope you will embrace it, so we can live it out together.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your answers with the group is completely voluntary.

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

We live in a culture where many have rejected truth and no longer obey God’s Word, just like Paul talked about in [2 Timothy 4:4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.4). Take a moment and examine your own life.

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| **QUESTION**Does the fruit of your life show that you are committed to the truth of Scripture, or have you rejected it to chase after your own way? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you need to do to grow in trust and obedience to God’s Word? |

**Activate**

James tells us to be doers of the Word, not just hearers ([James 1:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas1.22)). As we get ready to close our session today, ask the Holy Spirit to help you take what you’ve learned about God’s Word being true and apply it to your own life.

Think through your schedule for the week and make time to engage in all five of the personal devotions. Don’t just listen to God’s Word; act on it. Each day there is an Activate section in your personal devotions. Do your best to act on them and be a doer of God’s Word 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.*The Bible tells us that God loves you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on a cross and rise from the dead three days later. He did this because He wanted a relationship with you and me. The way we respond to that kind of love is to put our hope and our trust in Him.**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 we 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.* |

**Conclusion**

Jesus set the example for all of us with His trust in Scripture. Just as He proved the truth of Scriptures, we too can have full confidence that the Bible is true. It teaches us what we need to know about Jesus and how to follow Him. Even if people around us reject God’s Word and chase after other things, we can stand firm and be prepared for whatever comes our way.

Next time we’ll talk more about the Scriptures and how they’re our guide through all of life. Remember to do the devotions this week too.

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the truth of Your Word. We want to follow Jesus’ example and trust in Your Word completely. Help us to not just hear Your Word, but to put it into practice in our life. We ask that all those who attend our church will not only fall in love with Your Word, but will trust in Your Word in a greater way. 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.

**Did You Know?**

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| Before the Dead Sea Scrolls, the earliest manuscripts we had of the Old Testament were texts that dated around AD 920. Discovered in the late 1940s, the Dead Sea Scrolls contain an almost complete representation of the Old Testament (except for the Book of Esther). The earliest copies of the Scriptures in this collection date to around 200 BC. Although the difference of over one thousand years between these copies of the Scriptures is massive, scholars were shocked to see that the biblical texts were virtually unchanged over the course of that time. This proves that scribes took the transmission of Scripture incredibly seriously. The result is a biblical text that we can trust today.Endnote “55 Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus,” Jesus Film Project blog, accessed March 19, 2021, <https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/old-testament-prophecies.html>. |