

The Bible: A very Special Book.

2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

2 Peter 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Isaiah 30:8 Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness.

Luke 1:1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Our entire faith is based on the Bible. To have a firm faith we need to be firmly convinced the documents we get our information from are trustworthy and reliable.

One of the authors of the Bible, Peter, is adamant of the fact that Scripture did not originate with _____, nor with man's _____ of prophecy.
(2 Peter 1:21) (verse 20)

Men were speaking God's words as they were: _____
(2 Peter 1:21)

by the Holy Spirit.

Referring to The Old Testament as "The Law" what does Jesus claim about scripture in Matthew 5:18? _____
Indeed, the Bible has remained miraculously unchanged since the earliest documents.

Referring to the New Testament, Peter asserts that what he says can be trusted because he and the other apostles were: _____
(2 Peter 1:16)

In Isaiah 30:8, God himself told Isaiah to write down what He said so it would be an: _____

List the certifications of accuracy Paul's friend, Dr. Luke, gives his friend Theophilus concerning what he wrote (Luke 1:1-4):

Why did Luke think it was important to have this account written down so accurately? _____

2 Timothy 3:16:17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

What does Paul tell Timothy about Scripture? _____

What did he mean by saying it was “God breathed”? _____

External Evidence of the Bible historical reliability:¹

There are 5,300 known Greek manuscripts of New Testament. There are over 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence. The next closest ancient manuscript in textual attestation has only 643²

Many other ancient writings of the personal friends of the writers of the New Testament exist, confirming their internal testimony.³

Only 400 words of the New Testament are in doubt (less than 1/2 of 1 percent). Many of these are minor differences in spelling and stylistic changes such as conjunctions. None of them occur in texts pertaining to fundamental issues of faith.⁴

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls provided a complete Hebrew text of Isaiah 1000 years older than the previous known copy. The comparison of the two copies showed no significant changes in that time.⁵

Archaeological evidence overwhelmingly supports Biblical historic accuracy and trustworthiness of recorded events.⁶

A comprehensive awareness of the evidence supporting the Bible as the unique, authentic Word Of God will be the glue that holds your entire Christian faith together.

1 Josh McDowell, A Ready Defense, Thomas Nelson Inc. 1993
 2 Ibid., page 43
 3 Ibid., page 54 Reprints of two friends of the Apostle John confirming the books of Mark and Matthew, dated A.D 130, and A.D 180
 4 Ibid., page 46
 5 Ibid., page 51
 6 Ibid., Section 1, Part 1, Chapter 8

THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE (66 books)							
OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)			+	NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)			
HISTORY (17 books)	POETRY (5 books)	PROPHECY (17 books)		HISTORY (5 books)	LETTERS (21 books)	PROPHECY (1 book)	
The Law			About 400 years between Testaments	Gospels		1 Revelation	
1 Genesis ¹	1 Job	Major Prophets		1 Matthew	1 Romans		
2 Exodus	2 Psalms	2 Jeremiah		2 Mark	2 1 Corinthians		
3 Leviticus	3 Proverbs	3 Lamentations		3 Luke	3 2 Corinthians		
4 Numbers	4 Ecclesiastes	4 Ezekiel		4 John	4 Galatians		
5 Deuteronomy	5 Song of Solomon	5 Daniel			5 Ephesians		
					6 Philippians		
					7 Colossians		
					8 1 Thessalonians		
					9 2 Thessalonians		
History and Governments		Minor Prophets	History of the early church				
1 Joshua		1 Hosea	1 Acts	10 1 Timothy			
2 Judges		2 Joel		11 2 Timothy			
3 Ruth		3 Amos		12 Titus			
4 1 Samuel		4 Obadiah		13 Philemon			
5 2 Samuel		5 Jonah					
6 1 Kings		6 Micah					
7 2 Kings		7 Nahum					
8 1 Chronicles		8 Habakkuk					
9 2 Chronicles		9 Zephaniah					
10 Ezra		10 Haggai					
11 Nehemiah		11 Zechariah					
12 Esther		12 Malachi					
				General Letters			
				1 Hebrews			
				2 James			
				3 1 Peter			
				4 2 Peter			
				5 1 John			
				6 2 John			
				7 3 John			
				8 Jude			

The New is in the Old Concealed.
 The Old is in the New Revealed.

God used 40 different men over a period of 1500 years (about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90) in writing the Bible – 2 Peter 1:20-21

Review the chart above. Note these important facts:

- The Scriptures were written by approximately 40 different men.
- They lived in several countries.
- They lived at different times (1400 B.C. to A.D. 90)
- They wrote in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The common theme throughout all these books is the writers focus on God’s glory in man’s redemption with one central figure -Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The chart above was copied from “The Spirit Filled Christian, Design for Discipleship, Book Two” Copyright 1980 by the Navigators. They borrowed it from “Understanding the Bible (London: Scripture Union, 1972), page 183

Lesson Plan: The Bible, a very special book.

The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is the same reason Luke give for writing his book, “so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:4). As kids begin forming their own faith apart from their parents it is imperative we give them a firm base. Confidence in the source of the information used in forming their faith is essential.

Preparation:

Read the lesson thoroughly. I suggest reading the chapter referred to in Josh McDowell’s book, A Ready Defense. If you do not own a copy you can order it through the link on the website. This could be pretty boring subject matter as apologetics is still a stretch for this age group. Unless they’re super interested it’s up to you to make this lesson fly.

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you’d like to bring up.

Leading the lesson:

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

Summary:

Encourage your kids to read the Bible. Review the chart and shows them just how the Bible is laid out. In a Bible show them how comparatively small the New Testament is compared to the Old Testament. Mention that Jesus himself (God) specifically endorsed the Old Testament. Encourage them to read the whole New Testament within the next month or so. It’s not that huge compared to the entire Bible. You might see if there is any interest in doing the “Read the Bible In a Year” plan.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week.