

6

Can I trust the Bible?



KICK OFF

What reasons do people you know give for not believing and trusting the bible?



KEY VERSE

Luke 1:3 - "It seemed good to me also, having followed these things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."



BIG IDEA

We can be certain about the scriptures, and it is necessary for our salvation.



INVESTIGATE

LUKE'S ORDERLY ACCOUNT

Read Luke 1: 1-4

1. What is the purpose of Luke's gospel?
2. In what ways has Luke come to know what he has written?

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read Luke 24:13-32.

3. When Jesus met the two men, what did they believe?
4. What does it mean in verse 16 when it says "their eyes were kept from recognising him"?
5. What do Jesus words in v25-27 say about the Old Testament?
6. What did Jesus do before their eyes were opened? What does this say about how we come to believe?



DIG DEEPER

Tim Keller, writes..
The New Testament accounts of Jesus were

written too early to be legends.

Luke wrote his account of Jesus's life 30-40 years after the events, and he records the fact that many people who saw Jesus were still alive, and that his readers could therefore check his account with these witnesses. In fact Luke (in Luke 1:1-4) claims to be painstakingly preserving historical facts... Luke's statement to Theophilus, the recipient of the text, shows that ancient authors knew the difference between an "orderly account" and spinning a tale.

The documents are too detailed in their form to be legends.

In Mark 4 there is a detail recorded which says that Jesus was asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat. In John 21 it says that Peter was a hundred yards out in the water when he saw Jesus on the beach. He then jumped out of the boat and together they caught 153 fish. In John 8, as Jesus listened to the men who caught a woman in adultery, it says he doodled with his finger in the dust. The best explanation for why an ancient writer would mention [these details] ... is because the details have been retained in the eyewitnesses' memory.pto



THINK THROUGH FURTHER

Read Romans 1:16-18.

7. Why is it so important that the gospel is to be believed? What role does the gospel play in salvation?



8. Read what Time Keller has to say in the sidebar. How does this affect your belief?

9. If someone to ask you why you believe the bible is true, what would you say? How can we help people that have objections to the scripture, both in it's truth, and in what it asks us to do?

The documents are too counterproductive in their content to be legends.
If someone wanted to build a movement, would they have included in the account that their founder, Jesus, asked the Father for a way out (Matthew 26:39)? Would they attest that the original resurrection witnesses were women at a time when women's testimony was not admissible evidence in court? ...on every page of the New Testament, the apostles look like fools or cowards. Why would a leader of the early church make up those accounts? The only possible explanation for their inclusion is that they actually happened. Otherwise, they are totally counterproductive. (Keller from The Reason for God)

PRAISE GOD for the gift of his word to us, through which we can know him.

CONFESS to God our lack of belief, for not trusting his every word and command.

ASK GOD to commit his word to our hearts and mind that we might believe and live our lives for him.

PRAY ALSO for our ability to humbly and lovingly defend our faith



Praise God for the challenges raised Praying for others in your group: by God's Word through this study?



Discuss how you came to faith, and why the bible holds such an important place in your life. Which part of scripture do you hold closest to your heart?



For next week—
Doubt—What if I just can't believe?