

## Seventh Grade - Is the Bible reliable?

*What do you think of the Bible? When you read it what is generally going through your head? For most people, if they were honest, it would probably be “what on earth is going on here? Why did he do that? When will this chapter be over? I have 1000 other things on my plate. Is this thing even true?” Many people grow up with the Bible held in a position of high respect, but few people are ever taught how to read it. Reading the Bible is far different than reading a novel or a textbook, it takes so much more work to understand and requires action. Not many books will challenge the reader to actually go out and do something about what they read. But for someone to be willing to put in the time it takes to learn how to interact with the Bible they need to answer a few critical questions about the Bible. Is it reliable? Do I actually believe the Bible is the written word of God? When a person answers those questions for themselves, they will value the Bible accordingly. It’s not reliable? I’m not going to read it. It is reliable? I will. I don’t believe it is the word of God, therefore I can pick and choose what I like. It is the word of God, therefore I need to trust it even when it doesn’t make sense or I don’t like it.*

### Introducing the Topic

*Use these questions to help gauge what students already know about the subject, and help them begin to verbally process what may be misconceptions or partial understandings of the Bible.*

So, Let’s dive into discussion. Here are some questions to get discussion started. Remember, when it comes to our life groups on Sunday morning, you get out of it what you put into it. I promise you will get more out of this time by asking questions, engaging in dialogue with your fellow students and leader, and following along with the discussion.

- What do you think of when you think of the Bible? (*Definitely try to get as many students as possible to share in this question. Getting a slew of answers helps students who are bought in, or skeptical feel like they have a voice*)
- What do you think non-believers think of the Bible? (*feel free to ask “people from school” if they don’t know non-believers. But the goal is to learn what the non-church people around them think and say.*)
- Do you believe the Bible is reliable / trustworthy? Why or why not?

### Scripture Study

*As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the “Christian take” on a matter, but God’s revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.*

To begin this discussion, let’s first see what the Bible says about itself. Turn to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. This says that all scripture is the word of God and all of it serves a purpose.

- If that is true, then what are some assumptions you can make about scripture (ex. *Well if God is perfect, then what he says must be perfect, therefore, if the Bible is his word, the Bible must be perfect.*)
- What is the purpose of scripture according to this verse? Would you say it accomplishes that goal?

But of course, the Bible would say it is reliable and God breathed, but what about outside the Bible. Is there any way we can say the Bible and what it affirms and what it said happened is true?

*(this is a video from Frank Turek, an awesome Biblical apologist, but feel free to pitch the idea of watching a video in the trash can and do it yourself, or find a different video you like more, we trust you)*

Check out this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmA6kOWwfWI>

In this video Frank talks about 6 ways we can know the bible is reliable

- Early
- Eyewitness
- Embarrassing
- Excruciating
- Extra biblical
- Expected testimony

*Some questions from that video*

- Do any of those 6 ideas stand out to you? Why?
- Do you think those are good reasons to believe the Bible is reliable?
- Is it fair to make the assumption, if the Bible is historically reliable, then it is probably trustworthy as a whole as well? Why or why not  
*(help the students connect the dots that if everything did really happen as is said it happened in scripture, then there is a surplus of evidence that Jesus made claims to be God, did die on the cross, did conquer the grave 3 days later, did ascend into heaven, etc. Which means all Jesus said was true, which means who he is must be true, etc. feel free to land this plane how you like)*

### Practical Application

*We want students to be able to contextualize what Scripture teaches to their daily life. This portion of the conversation is centered around the practical application of the text and aimed at helping students actually integrate this truth into their walk with the Lord.*

*As we talked about at the beginning of this discussion, what someone believes about the Bible will dictate their value of the Bible. So, some final discussion questions for your group.*

- Do you have any questions from anything we have discussed today?
- What do you think about the Bible after today's discussion?
- If the Bible truly is what it claims to be, the very word of God, do you think it should be read?
- Do you know how to read the Bible? If not would you like to learn how? *(get their info if any student is interested. Meet up with them! This is PRIME discipleship time!)*