



Asking for a Friend – Can I Really Believe the Bible? Leader Guide

*Disclaimer – this is meant to help facilitate healthy discussion and be a safe place for people to ask and work through questions. Please, as the leader of your group, keep all conversations under control and guided in a way to honor God and all others involved. Be aware that emotions have the chance of running high with some of these questions! If there are questions you come across in which you are not equipped to answer, please email Kevin (kevin@thechapelbr.com) and Andrew (andrew.bates@thechapelbr.com).

We will be having an “ask anything night” in June, so if there are people in your group with big questions, please let them know they will have a chance to ask! (More info to come on this night soon!)

Have you ever heard this saying or one like it - “The Bible says it and that settles it”? What do you think about that statement? Is the Bible the foundation of the Christian faith? Feel free to share personal story from your experience. Bible is NOT basis of our faith -> The Resurrection. Bible tells the story and reveals God’s ultimate plan of redemption but is not the basis of our faith.

The reason Christians believe we can trust the Bible is who wrote it and when. What are some important dates in history that verify the date of the Bible? Destruction of the Temple 70AD – biggest event of the church (besides Resurrection), no reason for it not to be included unless it hadn’t happened yet // dating Paul’s letters and his confirmed death // Book of Acts mentioning Stephen and James’ deaths but not Paul’s or Peter’s – must not have happened yet. **How can these dates help verify the “eyewitness status” of the authors?** See above.

The amount of manuscripts of the New Testament is staggering when compared to the number of other historical documents. How does this support the validity and accuracy of the Bible?

Number of manuscripts -> New Testament – 5,600 // Homer’s Iliad – 643 // Plato’s Tetralogies 49 // Aristotle (any of his work) 7

Span of years between oldest copy and composition in years -> New Testament – 50 max // Homer's Iliad – 500 // Plato's Tetralogies – 1,300 // Aristotle (any of his work) 1400

So if we can believe the Bible, what does that mean for us? What good is it if it's true? “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV) **How you currently living this truth out in your life?** Do you believe you can trust the Bible? Are you currently reading and applying? How has the Bible made a difference in your life?

What next step can you take with the Bible this week? Start believing, start reading (join the conversation at chapelbibleplan.com), start studying/meditating, join a small group, get more info about D-Group, etc.