

wrestling with
doubt,
finding
faith

**SMALL GROUP
STUDY GUIDE**

Week 2 January 14, 2024
“Is the Bible True?”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Bible and how you speak to us through it. Help us with our serious questions and doubts we have with it. We pray that you would help us to see this as a wonderful, magnificent story with its faults like we humans have. But teaching us who you are and your will for our lives. Help us to be people of the book. Help us O Lord, to open, read, study, meditate upon, and live the scriptures. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

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

John 1:1-2, 14a (NIV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

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INTRODUCTION

There are many areas of scripture that people wrestle with for various reasons: Are the stories true and trustworthy? Why does God order genocide of various people? Why does the Bible seem to sanction slavery? Why are women treated so awfully in scripture? How can we reconcile the factual errors and contradictions? Is the Bible reliable?

The Bible is the combination of fallible human authors and God’s inspiration. This is helpful in making sense of those troubling passages. When reading scripture, we should always view it through the lens of Jesus’ life and teaching. If it doesn’t line up with Jesus’ teachings, then we need to ask questions. And when we read the Bible through the lens of Jesus, God speaks to us truth about Him and His will for us.

QUESTIONS

1. Are there areas of the Bible that you struggle to believe are true?
2. Do you believe that all scripture is factual and true? Why or why not?
3. Finding images from the writers’ culture or sporadic factual errors in the Bible shouldn’t trouble us. God didn’t make the Bible writers into robots. How can a focus on the central message, rather than on lesser details, deepen and enrich your Bible study?
4. Discuss the following quote: “The Bible is more than just a big book of inspirational verses and some do’s and don’ts. It’s a story. And like any story, it requires proper context. The Bible we hold...today has been translated across multiple languages and was originally written in a culture much different than ours.... without proper context you will ultimately read the Bible out of context.”

Source: Speegle, Tyler. (2022, December 30). Five signs you’re reading the Bible all wrong. RELEVANT Magazine. <https://relevantmagazine.com/life5/new-you/5-signs-youre-reading-the-bible-all-wrong>

5. How can you learn to better relate all the Bible’s “pieces” to the big story it tells about God and God’s ways?
6. In the message, Pastor Eric said that “all scripture needs to be read through the lens of Jesus’ life and teaching.” In what ways can making Jesus the ultimate standard of truth cast clearer light on many of the Bible’s difficult parts?

FINAL APPLICATION

Read Scripture passages from Asbury’s daily devotional this week or another reading plan.