

ANSWERS: Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 11 Why the Bible is Trustworthy

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 11: Why the Bible is Trustworthy (Day One) *The Bible and its Name*

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

1. Read John 15:5. What is Jesus teaching about our relationship with Him?

It is through our close relationship with Jesus that we bear fruit or good words.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 and answer questions 2-4:

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9

2. How are we to live with one another (v. 8a)?

In harmony with one another

3. List 6 ways we are to live in harmony with one another (vs. 8b-9):

(1. *Be sympathetic*

(4. *Be humble*

(2. *Love as brothers*

(5. *Do not repay evil with evil but with blessing*

(3. *Be compassionate*

(6. *Do not repay insult with insult but with blessing*

4. How will you learn to repay evil and insult with blessing?

Personal Answer but certainly prayer, Bible study and relying on the Holy Spirit.

Definition: Canon is defined as a set of religious writings regarded as authentic and forming a religion's body of scripture. Non canonical means that a writing is not part of the canon.

Lesson 11: Why the Bible is Trustworthy (Day Two) *Recognized as the Word of God*

Five Principles that guided the recognition and collection of divinely inspired books:¹

I. Was the book written by a prophet or spokesperson of God?

II. Was the writer confirmed by acts of God? Frequently miracles separated the true prophets from the false ones. (Remember Satan can also work supernatural acts so be careful.)

Read Exodus 9:20-24 and answer questions 5-8:

Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside.²¹ But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field.²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt-- on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt."²³ When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt;²⁴ hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. Exodus 9:20-24

5. Who is speaking to Moses (v. 22a)?

The LORD

6. What did the LORD tell Moses to do (v. 22b)?

Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt.

7. When Moses stretched out his hand/staff toward the sky as the LORD told him, what happened (vs. 23-24)?

When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground.

8. How would this miracle confirm Moses as a prophet of God?

Moses spoke the words of God and God confirmed by a supernatural act or miracle.

III. Did the message tell the truth about God?

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19

¹ McDowell, Josh, "The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict," Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1999, pp. 21-22. (Quoting Geisler/Nix, GIB, 223-231)

9. Read Numbers 23:19. How is God different from men and women?

God does not lie or change His mind. When He speaks, He acts. He does what He says He will do. All of His promises are fulfilled and come to pass. Men and women lie, change their minds, will say one thing and do another, or say they will do something and not do it. Men and women will give promises and not keep them.

10. Based on Numbers 23:19, can you discern whether a message about God is true or false?

One of the ways to discern (distinguish, tell the difference) if the message about God is true or false is if the message portrays God as always telling the truth, not changing His mind, speaking and acting on his His words as well as fulfilling all His promises.

Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth." 1 Kings 17:24

11. Read 1 Kings 17:7-24. How does the woman know that Elijah is a man of God?

Elijah asked God to heal the widow's son and God answered and raised him from the dead. God did a supernatural act through Elijah showing His mercy and love. God heard from Elijah, His prophet and acted in His true character of blessing those who bless His people (Genesis 12:3).

Read Mark 12:14 and answer questions 12-14:

They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Mark 12:14

12. In trying to trick Jesus by asking him a difficult question, these men make two statements about Jesus. No one in the crowd disagrees. What are these two statements of truth?

(1. Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity (You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are)

(2. You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.

13. Was Jesus concerned with popularity? Yes **No** Maybe (Circle One)

14. What do you do when you are not sure about the truth of a statement or teaching about God?

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in all truth; search the Bible for answers. One may also read commentaries or other books as well as seeking counsel from mature believers.

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen. Romans 1:25

15. Read Romans 1:25. How can you help those who exchange the truth of God for a lie?

Personal Answer but prayer and lovingly sharing the truth through your own personal witness, words and the Bible. Other tools to help are Christian books, tracts, CDs, and DVDs.

16. Think of someone who does not know the truth about God. Prayerfully reach out to that person this week with a nugget (piece) of truth about God. Share what happened:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, please encourage and comment appropriately.

IV. Does it come with the power of God?

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33

...regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1:3-4

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

17. Now it's your turn. Write three questions, one from each of the three verses above, regarding principle number IV of recognizing that the books of the Bible are divinely inspired because they come with the power of God. Then, answer the questions that you have written.

CLI Discipler, please encourage and comment appropriately. All the following are personal questions and answers:

(1. Question:
Answer:

(2. Question:
Answer:

(3. Question:
Answer:

V. Was it accepted by the people of God?

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

18. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Why does the apostle Paul thank God continually?

Paul thanks God continually because when he taught these particular people (Thessalonians), they accepted his teaching as the actual word of God.

Lesson 11: Why the Bible is Trustworthy (Day Three) *The Word of God to Others*

19. List the *Five Principles* that guided the recognition and collection of divinely inspired books:

(1. Was the book written by a prophet or spokesperson of God?

(2. Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?

(3. Did the message tell the truth about God?

(4. Does it come with the power of God?

(5. Was it accepted by the people of God?

20. Share those *Five Principles* with the men or women that you are discipling. Explain how you shared the principles and how they received it:

Personal Answer

21. How were you introduced to the Word of God?

Personal Answer

22. How are you introducing others to the Bible?

Personal Answer

23. Pray: O God, Please give me a love of Your *Holy Word*. Make me trust it as the truth it is and apply it to my life. Holy Spirit, illuminate (enlighten, clarify) Scripture so I may understand it and teach it to others. Lord Jesus, help me to use the Bible in telling others about you. Amen.

I prayed this prayer: Yes No (Circle One) - **Personal Answer**

Lesson 11: Why the Bible is Trustworthy (Day Four) *Studying the Bible*

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8

24. Read Isaiah 40:8. How long will God's word be effective and true?

Forever

Definition: Study is verb meaning to apply one's mind purposefully to the acquisition of knowledge or understanding of (a subject). Study also means to read carefully and to memorize. Studying the Bible is applying our minds in an organized fashion that helps us understand God and His ways without predetermined (decide in advance) conclusions.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

25. Read John 14:26. Why are you never alone when you are studying God's word?

The Holy Spirit is with us.

CLI Discipled, We are copying a part of the lesson below and the Bible verses for your reference in case one of your "disciples" has a scriptural question. Kathleen

There are various methods in studying and interpreting the Bible. It will make a difference if you are studying to teach, learn or edify (improve mind or character). There are many biblical tools to help you in your study: commentaries, Bible dictionaries and other books written in the past and present (Luke 1:1-4; Joshua 10:13; Acts 17:28 and Jude 1:14).

Luke 1:1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.³ 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,⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Joshua 10:13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.

Acts 17:28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Jude 1:14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones

Definition: "A Bible commentary is a written, systematic series of explanations and interpretations of Scripture. Commentaries often analyze or expound on individual books of the Bible, chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Some commentary works provide analysis of the whole of Scripture."²

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you discernment (ability to judge) in using other resources. The Holy Spirit may have caused the words of some authors to be true and worthy of use but we must still be diligent to distinguish truth from error. Only the Bible can claim infallibility (never

² <http://christianity.about.com/od/glossary/g/Commentary.htm#>

wrong) as the inspired word of God. In the same way, ask the Holy Spirit to give you discernment regarding sermons or messages by preachers and pastors (Acts 17:11).

Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Definition: A concordance is an alphabetical list of the words present in a text, usually with citations of the passages concerned. If a Bible includes a concordance, it will be located in the back of the book and entitled Concordance.

Read Matthew 16:6-9 and answer questions 26-27:

"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."⁷ They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."⁸ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"⁹ Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?"

26. Did any of the disciples have enough faith to understand Jesus' words? Yes **No** (Circle One)

27. Why did Jesus say their lack of understanding had to do with a lack of faith (vs. 8-9)?

Because they did not remember Jesus' miracle of feeding the five thousand people with only five loaves of bread. If they had understood who Jesus was and His power, they would not have been thinking about food. They would have had faith in Jesus to provide and thus looked for another meaning to what Jesus was saying.

Definition: "Figurative language refers to all uses of words that are metaphorical or symbolic in nature, conveying a meaning different from their common, literal sense. In biblical interpretation, understanding the meaning of figurative language often involve the study of its cultural, historical, and literary contexts."³

How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

28. Read Matthew 16:11-12. What did Jesus mean when He warned against the "yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (v. 12)?

Jesus was referring to the hypocritical teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They were a legalistic and separatist group who put undue burdens on the people. Yeast is used here as a

³ Hernando, James D., *Dictionary of Hermeneutics*, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO, 2005, p. 22.

symbol of evil or corruption. The metaphor includes the idea of a tiny amount of yeast being able to ferment a large amount of dough. Sometimes the yeast metaphor is used in a good way:

Matthew 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Definition: Literal is an adjective meaning to conform or to uphold the exact or primary meaning of a word or words. It can also be defined as word for word or verbatim. Literal means avoiding exaggeration, metaphor, or embellishment; factual.

Figures of Speech in Language:

An expression in which words are used in a non-literal way to achieve an effect beyond the range of ordinary language. There are many figures of speech but here are a few:

Metaphor - met·a·phor (mèt'e-fôr') *noun*

A figure of speech wherein an implicit comparison is made, one thing being spoken of in terms of another. A metaphor suggests a strong symbolic image that communicates not so much what is true to fact but as to feeling.⁴ Biblical example: *He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' "* Luke 13:32

Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders.
Psalm 119:27

I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.
Psalm 119:48

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119:97

29. Read Psalm 119:27, 48, 97. Why will *you* study and meditate on the words in the Bible?

Personal Answer

(Meditation offers wonderful spiritual benefits to disciples. It opens up communion with God and builds confidence in Him. It is also an act of worship and an avenue for spiritual truth and renewal.)

Lesson 11: Why the Bible is Trustworthy (Day Five) *The Bible and History*

Definition: History is defined as past events of a period in time or in the life or development of a people, an institution, or a place.

Definitions: Bibliographical in this context is defined as the history of books and other publications, and the work of classifying and describing them. Text refers to a book or other written or printed work.

⁴ Ibid., p. 115.

30. Explain in your own words why the New Testament books are historically reliable using the Bibliographical Test:

The New Testament books were the most frequently copied of any ancient manuscripts. Most of the ancient manuscripts survive with only a few copies. The sheer number of our copies makes it possible to reconstruct the original text with accuracy and precision. We know that we have received God's word in the way He divinely purposed.

31. How does this information about the Dead Sea Scrolls build up your faith in the reliability (trustworthiness) of the Scriptures?

Personal Answer but from the lesson:

When scholars compare the Dead Sea scrolls (for example the Isaiah scroll, 125 BC) with the next oldest known Hebrew text (Isaiah scroll 916 AD) the accuracy is remarkable. There is over a thousand year period between the two scrolls and yet there is little difference. Plus, the 5 % differences are simple scribal (copyist) errors such as variations in spelling etc. that do not change the meaning of the text.

B. Internal Evidence Test: Claims the writer himself makes in the document.

Definition: Inspired or Inspiration of Scripture is defined as the "actions of God leading to the writing, preservation, and collection of His words to His people into the Bible. The English word inspiration comes from the Latin word *in spiro* which mean 'to breathe in.' Inspiration, then, is the influence of the Holy Spirit upon individuals for the purpose of producing an authoritative record of person, teaching and events."⁵

New Testament (underlining for emphasis by author of study)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. Hebrews 1:1-2

how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. Hebrews 2:3

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

⁵ Holman Bible Dictionary, p. 703.

Old Testament (underlining for emphasis by author of study)

Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on sides, front and back.¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. Exodus 32:15-16

Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. Isaiah 1:2

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. Isaiah 30:8

They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.¹³ "'When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the LORD Almighty. Zechariah 7:12

32. The Bible is consistent in claiming to record God's words. **True** False (Circle One)

C. External Evidence Test: Claims other writers (in other documents) make about the manuscript in question.

33. How effective can you be as a disciple if you do not know the truth of Scripture?

Not effective at all.

34. How has Jesus opened your mind so that you can understand the Scriptures?

Personal answer but might mention being born again and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

35. Write 1 Peter 1:23 from memory without referring to the Bible or notes:

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 1 Peter 1:23

---End Lesson 11 Answers---

Next: Lesson 12: Fear the Lord

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Advancing Christ's Light in Prisons

