



MESSAGE BIG IDEA

The Bible can be shown to be a reliable document, accurately recorded and transmitted through history, and relevant to life in the 21st century. Scripture: John 5:39 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use this time to ease into the topic for tonight, whether we can trust the Bible. It might help to use the idea of reliability in relationships to talk also about our relationship with God and the Bible.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

The 2 Timothy 3:16-17 verses refer to Old Testament scripture because the New Testament hadn't been written yet. We now believe that the New Testament is included in Paul's charge to Timothy that all scripture is "God-breathed." The John verse is helpful because it illuminates why we include the New Testament in "God-breathed," because it is testifying about Jesus. If we take the idea of the Bible's reliability seriously, what could it mean for us to find God in the Bible?

LIFE APPLICATION

Watch the Curiosity Collective and give room for everyone to talk about their doubts, their questions, and remember this is a conversation. We aren't seeking to have all the answers, but to form a safe place for people to be real together.

Walk through the questions with your group and consider alternative questions depending on your group's make-up. Challenge them to think deeply about why and how they use or don't use the Bible. A next step to explore it deeper is always a good idea, no matter where they are in their journey – we could all learn more or delve deeper.

CHALLENGE

Sign up for a Bible Reading Plan if you don't already use one. Commit to reading daily and praying the prayer we've been challenged with for most of Explore God: "God if you're real, make yourself real to me through your Word."

VIDEOS

What Is the Bible? (<http://www.exploreGod.com/video-what-is-the-bible>)

Is the Bible Relevant? (<http://www.exploreGod.com/is-the-bible-relevant-video>)

ARTICLES

Can I Trust the Bible? (<http://www.exploreGod.com/can-i-trust-the-bible>)

Is the Bible Reliable? (<http://www.exploreGod.com/is-the-bible-reliable>)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Historical Reliability of the Gospels, Craig Blomberg

Yes or No? Straight Answers to Tough Questions About Christianity, Peter Kreeft