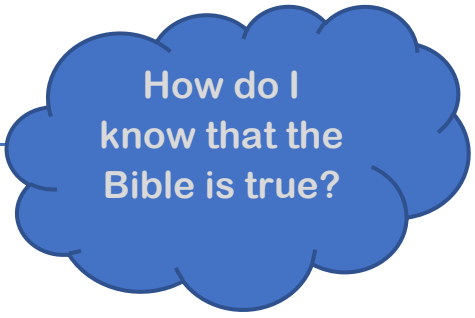


Spiritual Habits



How do I know that the Bible is true?

Setup:

Speaker shares true story of finding out a childhood belief was false. A belief such as Santa, or Tooth Fairy. Describe in detail what that moment was like.

Sometimes our belief in something, or someone is only because we've been told by someone we love or trust. This can't be true for you when it comes to your faith. You see, it's YOUR faith, it's YOUR relationship. It can't be built on someone else's truth. It must be what you know to be true.

Throughout the rest of this year we will look into some deep questions of faith. We hope you gain a deeper understanding as we talk through these questions, and help you as you make your faith your own.

Is the Bible true?

DID YOU KNOW:

The Bible is the most widely known and published book in history. It has been translated into more than 2,400 languages!

- Written over about 1,000-year span of time
- At some point along the way, each part of Scripture had to be copied from the author's original writing. Let's face it, there weren't copiers back then, so this LONG and tedious process is called, autographan, where someone transcribes the original copy into an accurate copy... called a manuscript

(ask Luke for videos and pics of the Bible museum in DC)

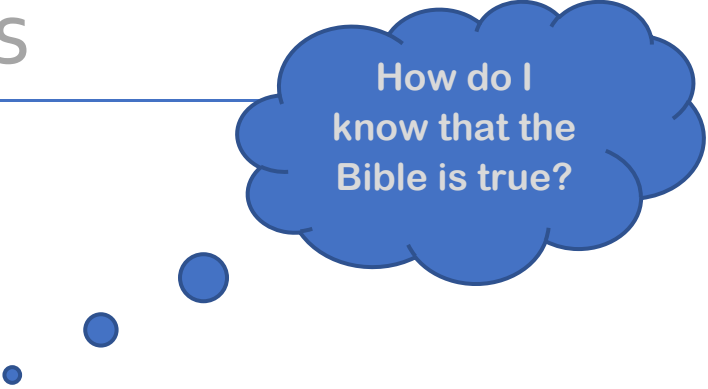
The process of making copies from previous copies preserved the writings that we now know as Scripture.

So how did the authors know what to write?

Let me pray over you, and then you will head to your small groups to unpack the answer to that question.

Spiritual Habits

Spiritual Habits



How do I know that the Bible is true?

Parent Que:

This week your student discussed the reliability of the Word of God being true and inspired. They discussed that God breathed His word into men and it has been proven by way of scientific and historical evidence as well as fulfilled prophecy. Students were again challenged to be intentional about the time spent reading the Word. If it is indeed the most popular, most printed book in all of history, wouldn't it make sense that we would prioritize reading it? Don't shrink back from conversations about the Bible with your student. Research with them and guide them to understand this book that is living and active because of the God who divinely delivered the words on to the pages within.

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 1:1-2

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

1 Corinthians 2:13

2 Peter 1:20-21

Luke 24:44-46

Spiritual Habits

How do I know that the Bible is true?

Have you ever been inspired to write something?? Create something?
Have you ever felt inspired by a movie or speech? A song?
If so, would you be willing to share that experience?

GOD BREATHED

Read [Hebrews 1:1-2](#)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

(Have a student or group of students open to each of the above references as you discuss the next set of questions)

- How and in what way did God speak to people long ago?
- How does God speak to us now?
- Where did the actual words of the Bible come from?
- So how are God's words helpful to us?

God chose people who had a deep relationship with Him to be His spokespeople, writing down His words, and communicating His heart through their unique personalities. How cool would that have been to be selected by God as an author! Let's hear from 2 of these authors; giving credit for the words they penned.

Read [1 Corinthians 2:13](#)

- Where does Paul say his words come from that explain spiritual truths?

Read [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)

- What does Peter say about how the words of Scripture were given?

Over 3,000 times writers of the Bible said they received their words from God. Using phrases like: "*the word of the Lord came to me*" (Ezekiel), "*the Lord said to Moses*" (Leviticus), "*says the Lord*" (Isaiah), "*declares the Lord*" (Jeremiah), and so on. The apostle Paul said, "*For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.*" Galatians 1:11-12

The Bible was written over a time period of about 1,550 years and at least 40 different authors, living in different cultures, written in 3 different languages, and it all tells the SAME story!

– [77 FAQs about God and the Bible](#) – Josh and Sean McDowell

HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

[Video on the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxdoJhVsEA) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxdoJhVsEA>

In 1947 there was a discovery that amazed Bible scholars. The Dead Sea Scrolls, 223 manuscripts of the Old Testament were found. These manuscripts date back to 125 B.C. and when laid side by side with Hebrew manuscripts at the time of their finding they were more than 95% accurate! The 5% of inaccuracy came down to basic spelling errors. This discovery revealed that thousands of years of copying the Old Testament had produced only very minor errors that did not affect the clear meaning of the text. – *John MacArthur*

Spiritual Habits

The putting together of all the books of the Bible happened over time. There was a process in what determined that writings were “inspired” of God. The books of God’s inspired Word are referred to as the Canon, from the Greek word, *kanon*, meaning “rule” or “principle.”

Once God had delivered His message through the prophets, by the 300’s BC, the Old Testament was considered to be the complete revelation of God to the Jewish people. Jesus confirmed this accuracy in Luke 24:44. Jesus would have known the Old Testament, as we know it now.

Read [Luke 24:44-46](#)

- What does Jesus repeat to the people?
- What is prophecy?

Fun Fact – There is more evidence of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ than any other secular figure in history, not even a close second. There is more evidence to support the life and death of Jesus than the lives of Plato and Confucius combined! – [77 FAQs about God and the Bible](#) – Josh and Sean McDowell

FULFILLED PROPHECIES

Some of the biblical writers made claims about future events centuries in advance. If any one of the events predicted had occurred, it would be astounding. But the Bible contains many, many prophecies. Do you know how many? **There are over 2,000 prophecies fulfilled from the Word of God! !**

The point



The Bible is the true inspired Word of God, breathed into men, by God. It has been proven true by way of historical and scientific evidence as well as fulfilled prophecies.

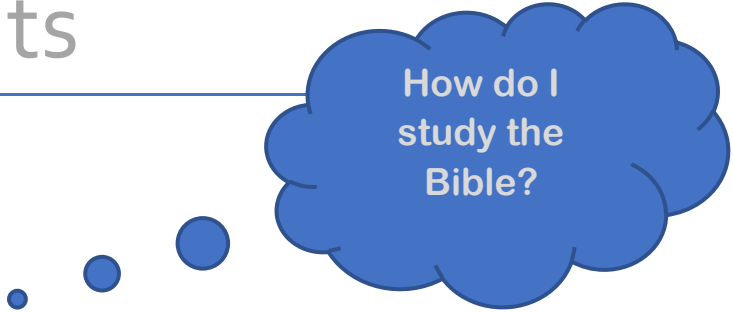
Application

- If the Bible the Word of God, is the most popular, most printed book in all of history, most languages etc. Wouldn’t it make sense that we make it a priority to READ what it says? What can you do this week to spend more time reading this amazing book, God’s Word?

Catch up/ Journal/ Pray

Spiritual Habits

Spiritual Habits



How do I
study the
Bible?

Setup:

Who likes to play a good board game? Have you ever gone to a friend's house and you play a game that you have at your own house, but they play it differently? You know the story, you're playing a game the way you think it's played, the way you've always played it, and they throw in a twist to the game. Like, maybe they have their own "house rules".

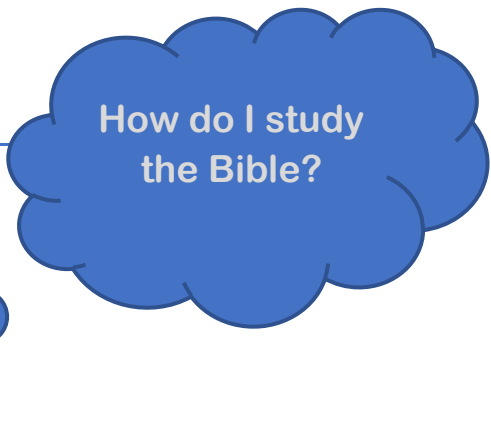
(Play an actual game on stage with student volunteers, like cornhole and make up some "house rules".)

Like the game of LIFE, how much money do you *really* get if you land on "PAY DAY"? Is it doubling your actual "PAY DAY" amount? What if you spin a "10"? do you collect all the money paid to the bank that's been accumulating in a pot? In order to know for sure, you have to go back to the directions. It's super annoying to play a game with someone who hasn't read the directions. Maybe they just play the way they learned from someone else, and the person they learned from doesn't play according to the directions. Have you ever had that moment when you are playing a game, and you just aren't sure about a play within the game, and then someone says, "just read the directions".

It can be the same way real LIFE. It can be hard to know exactly how to live it if we neglect to read the directions that could help us win every time. It's the Bible guys! Last week we learned how this book is the most published and translated book in all of the world, and how much time do you spend reading it. It's not just packed full of directions, it's more than that. So much more than that. The Bible is a personal invitation to get to know God better. You will experience God as you experience His Word.

Spiritual Habits

Spiritual Habits



How do I study
the Bible?

Parent Que:

Students took an in depth look at how they can study the Bible for themselves. They were given a simple process that they could follow as well as some resources they can utilize. This would be a great opportunity to have a discussion with your student about how and when you study the Word, or maybe your rhythm could use some fresh wind. If that is the case maybe you could do a reading plan with your student and have some follow up discussions. Offer to help supply your student with some additional resources to study the Word.

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 4:12

John 17:13-21

1 Corinthians 2:10,13-14

Simple Bible study method:

LIST: To who was it said? Where/when was it said?

LEARN: What was said? Why was it said?

LISTEN: What does it mean?

LIVE: How does it apply to me?

Resources:

Definitions and word studies – Bible dictionary or concordance

Cross reference passages and words

Reference books – Bible encyclopedias, atlases


Study Bibles

Commentaries

Computer and online resources

YouVersion App

Spiritual Habits



How do I study the Bible?

What do you think of when I say the word "study"?

Is there something you enjoy studying? If so, why do you enjoy studying it?

When you study something you usually learn more about what you're studying. Did anyone follow through on the challenge to spend more time reading the Bible last week?

Would anyone be willing to share something they learned?

- What is a worldview?
- How can knowing the Bible change our worldview?
- What do we need to do in order to know the Bible in a way that it effects how we see and live in our world?

Read [John 17:13-21](#)

- As Jesus is praying for us, what does He tell God that we've been given?
- Why does the world hate Christ Followers? Do you ever feel "hated" by the world?
- Where does Jesus say we are we sent? Why?
- How does the truth Jesus talks about help us? Where does it come from?

Read [Hebrews 4:12](#)

- What does this verse tell us about the Word of God?
- How does this make it different from any other book?
- Have you ever had a moment where a verse/ or story from the Bible really connected with your life?

Every individual has the choice to have a relationship with God and to embrace His worldview. A goal of studying, reading the Bible is to understand what God is saying to you personally, how it is relevant and applicable to your life, and your world.

Always consider the context of when the passage was written, noting the culture and time period.

LIST: To who was it said? Where/when was it said?

LEARN: What was said? Why was it said?

LISTEN: What does it mean?

LIVE: How does it apply to me?

Spiritual Habits

Take this opportunity to walk through a passage and apply the above questions, “process” to it.
A couple of places you could go: Psalm 23 or Psalm 139

Read [1 Corinthians 2:10,13-14](#)

- Who helps us to apply the Word to our life?

Resources that can help you as you study the Word:

Definitions and word studies – Bible dictionary or concordance

Cross reference passages and words

Reference books – Bible encyclopedias, atlases

Study Bibles

Commentaries

Computer and online resources

YouVersion App

The point



Help students learn how to study the Word for themselves.

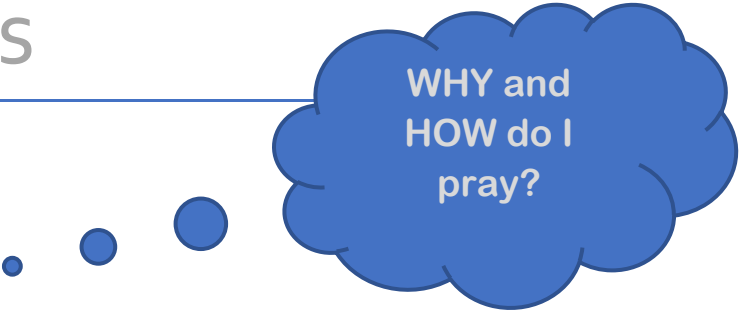
Application

- Do you feel like you have gained a better understanding of how to approach the Word and read it for yourself?
- What do you need to do in order to spend more time in the Word each week?

Catch up/ Journal/ Pray

Spiritual Habits

Spiritual Habits



WHY and
HOW do I
pray?

Setup:

Share a celebrity crush or obsession from JH with the students. You could even pull someone popular or relevant in their world today. Discuss what you “know” about them from what you’ve read, seen, or heard. Draw conclusions on how you imagine you could connect with this person, if only you had an opportunity to meet them.

(Slide with celebrity images)

Many of us can become obsessed with a celebrity. We constantly check social media accounts, looking to see the latest updates and pics. Can you think of someone that captures your curiosity in that way?

Direct students to share their celebrity obsession with someone sitting next to them.

Could we be obsessed with this celebrity someone because we desire to have connection with someone bigger than ourselves?


God created us with an instinctive need to know and be known by our Him. We were created to know God in a deep and personal way. If this connection is missing in our life, we have a need for something, or someone to fill it.

You may never achieve a meaningful connection with a celebrity, because you lack “access” to their world. As a follower of Jesus, you have access to something immeasurably better, a daily relationship with the Creator, God.

God wants to connect with you. Tonight, I hope you grow in your understanding of how you grow in this connection, through conversation. It’s called prayer.

Spiritual Habits

Spiritual Habits



WHY and HOW
do I pray?

Parent Que:

Our lesson centered on gaining a deeper understanding in the purpose of prayer. Students were encouraged to spend time in the daily practice of prayer and even more specific to think about what they could do this week to strengthen their connection with God through prayer. This week would be a great time to have a conversation with your student about praying together about something. Maybe this is not part of your everyday world with your student, so keep in mind it could feel a bit awkward, but this would be a great time to enter a more vulnerable place with your student through the practice of prayer. Remember, don't force your student to pray, just modeling, and praying over them can make a huge impact!

Key Scriptures:


[James 4:8\(a\)](#)

[John 15:4-5](#)

[Philippians 4:6-7](#)

[Matthew 6:9-13](#)

Spiritual Habits



WHY and
HOW do I
pray?

What are some ways you get to know someone better?

In the setup time tonight, we heard that we have a need to connect with God, and that He wants to connect to us. Have you ever thought about God wanting to spend time with you?

[Read James 4:8 \(a\)](#)

- What does this verse tell us will happen as a result of us “coming close” to God?
- How do you think we “come close”?

[Read John 15:4-5](#)

- What are we able to do if we are connected to God?
- What is the result if we are disconnected?
- How do you think we become disconnected from God?

Prayer is daily conversation with the One who created us. Daily communication through prayer is so important that it is mentioned over 250 times in Scripture.

Daily prayer gives us an opportunity:

- to share all aspects of our lives with God.
- to express our gratitude for the things He provides.
- to confess sin and ask for help in overcoming it.
- to worship and obey God.
- to acknowledge who is really in control of our lives.

Jesus gave us a model for prayer, when He taught the disciples how to pray. Keep in mind this is a model, not a method.

[Read Matthew 6:9-13](#)

- What stands out to you about Jesus’ model?
- Is prayer something that is easier for you when you’re in a group of people, when you’re by yourself, or not at all? Why?

Spiritual Habits

Jesus didn't just give us this model, He personally practiced prayer, and we can learn from His example. (*Assign the following passages to students to read and share what can be learned from Jesus' prayer life.*)

Matthew 14:23 Mark 1:35 Luke 5:16 Luke 6:12 Luke 18:1 Matthew 26:39

Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#)

- According to this verse, when should we pray?
- What will we experience as a result?

The point



Gain deeper understanding in the purpose of prayer. Students encouraged to spend time in the daily practice of prayer.

Application

- What can you do this week to strengthen your connection to God through prayer?

Catch up/ Journal/ Pray