

4. How has the message of truth found in God's Word changed your life?

How is the Bible – God's message of truth – starting to come alive in your life on a daily basis?

How would you encourage a friend to begin reading God's Word for himself/herself?

So, can the Bible be trusted? God's Word can be trusted as sure as you are breathing in and out. The same God who breathed life into your lungs is the same God who has breathed life into His eternal Word. God's Word has the power to "expose our inmost thoughts and desires" if we'll read it (see Hebrews 4:12-13). God's Word "stands firm in heaven" and stretches throughout the ages of time and into eternity (see Psalm 119:89-90). Not only can the Bible be trusted, but its message has the power to change our lives and show us God's Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, the pure embodiment of God's faithfulness, God's truth, and the fulfillment of God's Word.

"Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled" (Romans 15:4)

One Year Bible Reading

January 11: Genesis 24:52-26:16, Matthew 8:18-34, Psalm 10:1-15, Proverbs 3:7-8
January 12: Genesis 26:17-27:46, Matthew 9:1-17, Psalm 10:16-18, Proverbs 3:9-10
January 13: Genesis 28:1-29:35, Matthew 9:18-38, Psalm 11:1-7, Proverbs 3:11-12
January 14: Genesis 30:1-31:16, Matthew 10:1-23, Psalm 12:1-8, Proverbs 3:13-15
January 15: Genesis 31:17-32:12, Matthew 10:24-11:6, Psalm 13:1-6, Proverbs 3:16-18
January 16: Genesis 32:13-34:31, Matthew 11:7-30, Psalm 14:1-7, Proverbs 3:19-20
January 17: Genesis 35:1-36:43, Matthew 12:1-21, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 3:21-26

Can the Bible Be Trusted?



Text: Luke 24:19-34

Look Closely at the _____

Look at the _____: *Comparing authenticity of Roman History vs. New Testament*

Recognize Your _____

The Plain Truth

"These are written that you may _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that _____ you may have life in his name." John 20: 31

A) Opened _____

B) Burning _____

C) Can't _____

January 10 & 11, 2015

Can the Bible Be Trusted?

Life Group Lesson • Week of January 11

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus Himself said, “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved” (Matthew 5:18). The glorious truth is this: “Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth...He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together” (Colossians 1:15-16b, 17). Jesus Christ has fulfilled all that was written about the Messiah “in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms”—Christ alone can open our minds “to understand the Scriptures” which witness to His power, authority, and glory (Luke 24:44-45).

Read Luke 24:13-53

(As you read this account of the first Easter Sunday, note at least three things that stand out to you, perhaps that you’ve never seen or thought about before.)

1. Initially God kept the two men from recognizing Jesus while walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus (see v16). When were their eyes opened to recognize Jesus? (vv30-31)

With this in mind, read the following passages. Who else had trouble initially recognizing the risen Jesus and why?

John 20:14-16

John 21:4-9

Acts 9:1-6

Mary heard Jesus call her name when she turned to see the One who loved her. Peter and John recognized Jesus through the miraculous catch of fish. The two men from Emmaus understood as the guest in their home blessed and broke bread. Saul was face down in the dirt when Jesus revealed Himself to this persecutor of the early church. In each case, the encounter solidified the person’s knowledge and faith.

Peter, for example, was with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. Many years later, Peter shared how being an eyewitness of Jesus’ transfiguration opened an entirely new understanding of Jesus’ power and future glory. Because of that Peter boldly declares that God’s Word is inspired, should be heeded, and can be trusted.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21.

(This encounter Peter recalls is found in Matthew 17:1-9.)

2. Peter says “because of that experience (the transfiguration of Christ) we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets...you must pay close attention to what they wrote.” To what does Peter compare the message of the prophets? (see 2 Peter 1:19)

What does Peter say about prophecy found in Scripture? (2 Peter 1:20-21)

3. If indeed, “those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God” as Peter witnessed, then why do people still doubt the validity and authority of the Bible?

What has caused you to doubt the validity and authority of God’s Word?

Jesus said, “God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed” (John 3:19-20). But as Peter said the message proclaimed by the prophets is “like a lamp shining in a dark place.” In many ways God’s Word is like a divine mirror—it reveals the truth and helps us to see what is wrong and what we need to correct (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Are you willing to allow Him to do that by reading and studying His Word?

Just as God opened the eyes of early believers to recognize the risen Lord, God can open your eyes and confirm His message of truth to you personally. God is the author of salvation (Revelation 7:10), and though the LORD has many secrets known to no one, God is the author of His Book (Deuteronomy 29:29). His revealed Word is traditionally called “The Holy Bible” because its message has miraculously changed the lives of countless men and women, boys and girls throughout the centuries of time. Those who encounter its message and respond in faith are never the same.