

“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.” — Martin Luther

Our confidence in the Bible is based in _____ evidence _____, not _____ opinion _____.

1. _____ Historical _____ evidence

Verisimilitude: the appearance or semblance of truth; likelihood; probability

“In no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the time of the earliest extant manuscripts so short as that in the New Testament.” — Sir Frederic G. Kenyon

2. _____ Cultural _____ evidence

“...love your neighbor as yourself...” Mark 12:31

“Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost 20 centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull up out of that history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left?” — Jaroslav Pelikan

3. The evidence of _____ transformation _____

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what **God’s will** is... Romans 12:2

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which **transcends all understanding**, will protect your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

“The Bible was written not to satisfy your curiosity but to help you conform to Christ’s image. Not to make you a smarter sinner but to make you like the Savior. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts but to transform your life.” — Howard Hendricks

Group Prep

In preparation for group, read Luke 24:25-27, Romans 12:1-2, and 2 Timothy 3:14-17 then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Is the Bible problematic to Christian faith? Is it outdated? Is it relevant? Is it reliable? Can we even trust it? If the answer is no, our faith is rooted in nothing more than personal opinion and a mythical story about a first-century sorcerer named Jesus. However, if our faith in the Bible is rooted in evidence, not opinion, it’s life-changing.

Discussion Questions

1. Growing up, were you an “easy sell” on the legitimacy of the Bible or were you skeptical about its content? Why?

Read Luke 24:25-27. If you’ve ever doubted the legitimacy of the Bible, you’re in good company. The disciples did the same. As an adult, what are some ideas, theories, or experiences that have caused you to doubt the legitimacy of the Bible?

2. In regard to historical evidence, what point from this weekend’s message do you feel is most impactful to your faith? Share with the group any other historical evidence not shared in the talk that has helped solidify your faith.

From your perspective, how has biblical principle impacted the world over time, whether negatively or positively? How do you feel about the statement, “We don’t exist in our current western civilized culture without Jesus and what we know of Him through the Bible”? How would the world and/or western civilization be different if the Bible didn’t exist?

3. Read Romans 12:1-2. Describe one principle from the Bible that has transformed your life. How has this principle impacted you as well as those around you?

Who in your life believes “the Bible is outdated, irrelevant, and unreliable, therefore I cannot believe in God”? How could you approach them with the theory that “the Bible is rooted in evidence, not opinion”?

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. If the Bible is rooted in evidence, how should it impact the way we live out our faith? What steps can we take this week to further explore the evidence for the legitimacy of the Bible? Personally, who can you engage this coming week with the information you’ve learned and how will engage them?

My action step is _____

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I’m praying for _____

Outreach: Groups in Action

The Colombian Mission team is giving away toys to hundreds of Colombian children. Please collect and donate small toys (i.e. happy meal toys, beanie babies, etc.) and drop them off at your campus’ Information Desk.

Support Love One, Emmanuel’s foster and adoptive care ministry, by serving in one of two ways: 1) Prepare a meal and drop it off to a foster family or 2) Babysit their children so the foster parents can go on a date night.

Please email Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org to connect with a foster family needing your support.