



Why the Bible? And What is It?

PART ONE

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

The _____ is not the foundation for our faith.

The _____ of _____ is the foundation of our faith.

Because of the _____ of Jesus, we have the _____.

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:18 (NIV)

_____ is our _____.

- The question we need to wrestle with is "_____ is _____?" before we ask "What is the Bible?"
- Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith and He exercises His authority through the Bible, directing our _____ and giving us _____ for life.

SERIES BIG IDEA:

_____ gives me the confidence to trust scripture to guide my beliefs and actions.

The Bible is an ancient, ambiguous, and diverse collection of divinely inspired scriptures that are active in leading us into a _____ with God and giving us _____ for life.

Jesus said the _____ scriptures (the _____ Testament) point to Him.

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27 (NIV)

The _____ scriptures are called the TaNaK (Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim) which contains 39 books written over a span of 1000 years in Hebrew and Aramaic.

Jesus _____ the TaNaK by claiming He was the Old Covenant's fulfillment.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

When the early church met together, they devoted themselves to the _____ teachings. (Acts 2:42)

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

The _____ Testament is comprised of four unique accounts of Jesus' story and teachings, one book of church history, 21 letters from the 1st Century Apostolic leaders, and one book of prophecy.



In the 4th Century, the Hebrew Scriptures were combined with the 27 New Testament writings into one book named " _____ " (The Bible).

We must start with Jesus and read all scripture through the lens of Jesus as the _____ of our sins and the _____ whom we obey and follow.

We read and trust scripture because we trust that Jesus is _____ and, therefore, He is our _____.

RESOURCES:

Visit westsideleavenworth.com/bible



STAY CONNECTED:

Download the Westside Leavenworth App in your App Store or visit westsideleavenworth.com

TEACHING SUMMARY:

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me, I stand alone on the word of God...

Many of us grew up singing that song and having a relationship with the Bible.

But as we grew older many of us have seen that relationship change and it leads to a question, did we have a relationship with a book or the God who inspired the book?

The lynchpin of the Bible is the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrected Jesus is the reason we have the Bible. He is the reason we can trust the Old Testament and He is the reason that many, many people have trusted in the Bible over the years.

So the question isn't can I trust the Bible, the question is Do I believe in the resurrected Jesus? That is the question that ties this all together and the question that needs to be at the forefront of our minds as we move forward.

TALK IT OVER:

What was your relationship with the Bible as you grew up? What do you believe about it now?

Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?

Does it change your thoughts on the Bible if you view it through the filter of the resurrection of Jesus?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon: Matthew 4:1-10
Tue: Joshua 3:9-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
Wed: Hebrews 4:1-12; Proverbs 30:4-6
Thu: Isaiah 40:7-8; Colossians 1:24-26
Fri: 1 Timothy 4:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:8-10
Sat: 1 John 2:13-15; Ephesians 6:10-17