

LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

SESSION THREE

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** designed to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the third of four sessions that, when taken together, explain how we know with certainty that the Bible is the Word of God. In the previous two sessions, Pastor Rogers confirmed the Bible's scientific accuracy by discussing what the Bible says about astronomy and medicine. In this session, Pastor Rogers shifts the focus to the Bible's historic accuracy and its wondrous unity. Though often disparaged by those who neither know the facts of history or the composition of the Bible, the undeniable truths presented by Pastor Rogers help us to have a firm confidence in the Bible as God's Word.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Lesson Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests, and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats recommended in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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INTRODUCTION

In this series of studies, we have issued a basic challenge for people to seriously examine the accuracy and trustworthiness of the Bible for themselves. This will help people to oppose critics who, without knowledge of the facts, are quick to discount the truth of God's word. In the same way the Bible was not written to be a science textbook, yet remains scientifically accurate, so it is with the Bible's historical content. It is not a history book but is historically accurate. And, just as a completed building points to the reality of an architect behind its design, the wondrous unity of the Bible points to God as its author.

In the previous two sessions, Pastor Rogers confirmed the Bible's scientific accuracy by discussing what it says about astronomy and medicine. In this session, Pastor Rogers shifts the focus to the Bible's historic accuracy and its supernatural unity. Though the Bible is often disparaged by those who neither know the facts of history nor the composition of the Bible, the undeniable truths presented by Pastor Rogers help us to have a firm confidence in the Bible as God's Word.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- If the Bible accurately records history as it unfolded during the time of its writing, would you consider it a trustworthy roadmap to study and follow while navigating through current life issues?
- Do you think information about the Bible’s unity might change the opinion of someone who tends to view the Bible as, “just another religious book”?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP 3 OF: “How to Know the Bible Is the Word of God”**AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

Not only is the Bible not a book of science, it is not a book of history, but it is historically correct ... The Bible, though it may not be a book of history per se, is “His story,” it is the story of God. —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: Though written neither as a science textbook, nor as a history textbook, the Bible remains scientifically and historically accurate. As scientists and archeologists advance their findings, they only continue to validate the Bible’s accuracy. Consider the following excerpt from, “Can the Bible Be Trusted?”:

According to W.F. Albright, there is no doubt that archeology has confirmed the essential historicity of the Old Testament. Millar Burrows agrees with him and states, as a whole, archeological work has strengthened our reliance on what the Bible says, and that in numerous cases it has refuted the views of critics.

Or the following from Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, former professor at Princeton Theological Seminary:

After forty-five years of scholarly research in biblical textual studies and in language study, I have come now to the conviction that no man knows enough to assail the truthfulness of the Old Testament. Where there is sufficient documentary evidence to make an investigation, the statements of the Bible, in the original text, have stood the test.

The noted Dr. J.O. Kinnaman has also said:

Of the hundreds of thousands of artifacts found by the archaeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause, or sentence of the Bible, but always confirms and verifies the facts of the Biblical record.

For Discussion: It has been well said that “history tends to repeat itself.” In reading and studying passages in the Bible that record historical events, do you find any parallels to our contemporary times? What are some of the cultural, religious, and/or nationwide events that seem to mirror the past, and how do you think we should respond to those situations?

Amplification:

The Bible has one theme, redemption; the Bible has one hero, the Lord Jesus; the Bible has one villain, the devil; the Bible has one purpose; the glory of God ... The

unity of the Bible is one of the wonderful proofs of the inspiration of God's Word—that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. —**Adrian Rogers**

Have you ever thought about the complexity of the combustible engine in your car? It is comprised of a thousand different parts, each unique, but all working together to allow your car to function. For that to happen there had to be hundreds of workers, beginning with a designer, then engineers, and workers in factories who make and/or assemble the parts. Many of these people never meet, they possess different educational and societal backgrounds, and they may even live in different parts of the world speaking different languages. Yet, under the watchful eye of a designer, sometimes after years of work, parts come together and you end up with a functioning car. So it is with the Bible. Under the careful and watchful eye of God, who used more than 40 different authors over a span of nearly 2,000 years, He assembled a book of marvelous unity that reveals Himself to us. And, like a car engine, if there is any aspect of the Bible's design that is flawed or defective, then the whole cannot be trusted.

For Discussion: The Bible was written by more than 40 authors on three different continents with backgrounds ranging from fishermen to kings. These authors wrote 66 books in three different languages over a timespan of nearly 2,000 years, yet the Bible is perfectly unified as a single book. How does this lend credibility to the trustworthiness of the Bible?

Amplification: There is a reason why the Bible says in 1 Peter 1:25, "...the word of the LORD endures forever."

For Discussion: How important do you think it is to read and study the Bible, and to use it to guide one's conduct and personal decisions? Why do you suppose there are people who simply choose to either ignore or deny truth? How do you think we should respond to such individuals?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In your personal devotions this week, consider the marvelous trustworthiness of the Bible, which is not dependent upon man's limited knowledge or understanding. You might consider journaling your thoughts and impressions.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – Teach us Your way, O Lord; Help us to walk in Your truth, and unite our hearts to fear Your name.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

Read **Daniel 5**. Some have claimed the Bible is historically inaccurate because they knew of only one last Chaldean Babylon king, when in fact, there were two co-rulers—father and son, Nabonidus and Belshazzar—both descendants of Nebuchadnezzar.

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Neil S. Wilson, "Handbook of Bible Application" (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1992)
- W.A. Criswell, "The Bible for Today's World" (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1965)
- U. Saarnivaara, "Can The Bible Be Trusted?" (Minneapolis: Osterhus, 1983)
- Paul Lee Tan, "Bible and Archaeological Testings, in Signs of the Times" (Dallas, TX: Bible Communications, 1998)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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