



RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

NAME _____

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EXPLORE

In groups of 3-4, share your responses to the following:

1. What do you believe about the Bible?

2. Why do you believe what you believe about the Bible?

EXAMINE

Introduction

Why is truth important?

- It affects your _____.
- It affects your _____.

Some truths about truth:

- Truth does not _____ to exist even if you don't believe it.
- Truth is not invented; it is _____.
- Truth is not truth just because the _____ believes in it.
- Truth does not depend on our _____.
- Truth must correspond with _____.

Law of Non-contradiction

Two contradictory or opposite truth claims cannot _____ be true at the same time and in the same sense.

The truth about true faith:

- True faith is not based on _____.
- True faith is _____ on truth.
- True faith is only as good as its _____.

Why We Believe the Bible

I. The Uniqueness of the Bible

- Written over a 1,600-year span.
- Written by more than 40 writers from every walk of life (from king to peasant, philosopher to fisherman).
- Written in different places (from Africa, Asia, Europe; from the wilderness, to a comfortable room, to a dungeon).
- 28% prophecy.
- No contradiction.

One Central Theme:

God's _____ of man – Jesus the Coming Messiah

II. The Accuracy and Reliability of the Bible

- A. Bibliographical Test
- B. Internal Evidence Test
- C. External Evidence Test
- D. Archeology
- E. Prophecy
- F. Israel
- G. Jesus Christ
- H. Resurrection

A. Bibliographical Test

An examination of the textual transmission by which the documents reached the present.

1. Old Testament Manuscripts

2. New Testament Manuscripts

EXPRESS

In groups of 3-4, share your responses to the following:

1. Why is it important to believe what is true?
2. How can you be certain that the Bible we have today was copied or transmitted accurately?
3. How does the Bibliographical Test help you respond to questions about the reliability of the Bible being the Word of God?

EXPERIENCE

1. List down the things you believe about the accuracy and reliability of the Bible then write beside each of them the corresponding reason/s and basis.

EXPLORE

In groups of 3-4, share your responses to the following:

1. Why is it difficult for people to believe in the Bible?

2. What questions do they commonly ask about it?

B. Internal Evidence Test

Determines whether or not the document, as a written record, is credible (accurate/true) by analyzing the ability of the writer or the witness to tell the truth.

1. Eye witnesses accounts.
2. Includes embarrassing details about themselves.
3. Includes events about Jesus' burial and resurrection that they would not have invented.
4. Did not deny their testimony under persecution.

How the apostles died according to tradition:

James (son of Zebedee)	Beheaded
Bartholomew (Nathanael)	Crucified, Armenia
Matthew	Killed by a sword, Ethiopia
Andrew	Crucified on an X-shaped cross, Greece
Thomas	Thrusted through with pine spears, tormented with red-hot plates, and burned alive, India
Philip	Crucified, Turkey
Peter	Crucified upside down, Rome
Jude (Thaddaeus)	Crucified, Edessa
James (son of Alphaeus)	Beaten, stoned, hit in the head with a club, Jerusalem
Simon the Zealot	Crucified, England
Paul	Beheaded, Rome

C. External Evidence Test

How the document aligns itself with facts, dates, persons from its own contemporary world:

1. Secular sources
2. Church fathers

D. Archaeology

Examples of archeological discoveries:

1. Ebla Tablet (Genesis 14:8)
2. Taylor Prism (2 Kings 19)
3. Walls of Jericho (Joshua 6)
4. Pilate Inscription (Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 18-19)
5. Erastus Inscription (Romans 16:23, 2 Timothy 4:20)
6. Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2)
7. Pool of Siloam (John 9:7)

E. Prophecy

Examples of fulfilled prophecies:

1. Tyre (Ezekiel 26:4, 12)
2. Edomites (Obadiah 1:4, 10)
3. Moabites (Jeremiah 48:42)
4. Medo-Persia and Greece (Daniel 8:20-22)
5. Alexander the Great (Daniel 11:3-4)
6. Egypt (Ezekiel 29:9, 15)

F. Israel

(Ezekiel 36:10-11; 36:24; 36:34; Isaiah 66:8)

G. Jesus Christ

Examples of fulfilled prophecies about Jesus Christ:

	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22–23
Descendant of David	2 Samuel 7:11–16	Matthew 1:1
Enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9 Daniel 9:25	Matthew 21:1–5
Time of the Messiah's coming / death	Daniel 9:24–26 Malachi 3:1	Luke 3:1–2
Wounded, sneered at, spit upon, mocked	Isaiah 53:5–6 Psalm 22:7–8	Mark 15:19–20
Crucified and pierced	Isaiah 53:5–6	Matthew 26:26
Divided His garments	Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:35
Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57–60
Ressurrected	Psalm 16:10	Matthew 28

G. Resurrection

(1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Sources:

1. The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict (Josh McDowell)
2. More Than a Carpenter (Josh McDowell)
3. Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions (Gregory Koukl)
4. The Case for Christ (Lee Strobel)
5. Jesus Among Other Gods (Ravi Zacharias)
6. The Reason for God (Tim Keller)
7. An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice (Simon Greenleaf)
8. Mere Christianity (CS Lewis)
9. Reasons for Belief: Easy-to-Understand Answers to 10 Essential Questions (Norman Geisler and Patty Tunncliffe)

EXPRESS

1. Find a partner then assign the following roles:
 - (a) a skeptic about the reliability of the Bible and
 - (b) a believer who will share why he/she believes the Bible is accurate and reliable.
2. Simulate the believer sharing to the skeptic why he/she believes what he/she believes (10 minutes).
3. After sharing as a believer, reverse roles then do another run of the simulation (10 minutes)

