

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

4-DAY DEVOTIONAL INVESTIGATION

NAME _____

DATE _____

CASE SUMMARY

The Bible does not ask you to shut off your brain. This week you will open Scripture, test big claims, compare what you read, and think honestly about whether the Bible can be trusted.

DAY 1

WITNESS

The Gospels invite investigation.

DAY 2

VERIFY

Did the Bible get whisper-challenged?

DAY 3

CLAIMS

The claim everything hangs on.

DAY 4

TRUTH

Trust should change how you live.

HOW TO USE THIS FILE

Read slowly. / Mark what stands out. / Ask real questions.

Follow the evidence. / Respond to Jesus.

The goal is not just to finish pages. The goal is to investigate honestly and grow a faith that is thoughtful, grounded, and real.

FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE

DAY 1 - WITNESS

READ: Luke 1:1-4 (NLT)

CASE NOTE

THE GOSPELS INVITE INVESTIGATION

"...having carefully investigated everything from the beginning..." - Luke 1:3

THINK ABOUT IT

Read the passage twice. On the second read, underline words or phrases that sound like research, sources, eyewitness testimony, investigation, or certainty.

YOUR TURN

Write three words or phrases from Luke 1:1-4 that sound like investigation:

CLUE LIST

DIG DEEPER

What is one claim about Jesus you would want evidence for - and why?

MY QUESTION

FIELD CHALLENGE

Ask a leader, parent, or trusted Christian: 'What is one reason you believe the Gospels are connected to real history?' Listen before you argue. Write down the strongest reason you hear.

PRAY IT

Jesus, I do not want a borrowed faith. Give me courage to ask honest questions, humility to follow evidence, and a heart that wants truth even when it challenges me. Amen.

DAY 2 - VERIFY

READ: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NLT)

CASE NOTE

DID THE BIBLE GET WHISPER-CHALLENGED?

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful..." - 2 Timothy 3:16

THINK ABOUT IT

If Scripture shapes what we believe and how we live, we should be willing to look closely at it. Trusting the Bible does not mean being afraid to investigate how it has been preserved and translated.

CHECK IT YOURSELF

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–5 in two different translations—try NLT and ESV.

COMPARE

What words or phrases are different?

MY NOTES

STAY FOCUSED

What important truths stay the same in both translations?

SAME CORE TRUTH

WHY THIS MATTERS

Different wording does not automatically mean a different message. Bible translations sometimes use different English words to communicate the same ancient text clearly.

DAY 2 - VERIFY

READ: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NLT)

CONTINUED

LOOK AGAIN

Look again at the passage and test the claim for yourself.

TEST THE CLAIM

Do either of the translations change Paul's central claim that Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose from the dead, and appeared to witnesses? Why or why not?

MY RESPONSE

FIELD CHALLENGE

Choose another short passage today and compare it in two translations. Notice what changes and what stays the same. If something seems confusing, write it down and ask a leader instead of ignoring it.

PRAY IT

God, help me become someone who investigates Your Word instead of just repeating what other people say about it. Give me wisdom to understand Scripture, courage to ask questions, and confidence to follow what is true. Amen.

DAY 3 - CLAIMS

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 14-20 (NLT)

CASE NOTE

THE CLAIM EVERYTHING HANGS ON

"...if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless." - 1 Corinthians 15:17

THINK ABOUT IT

Make two lists as you read: (1) what Paul says happened to Jesus, and (2) what Paul says is true if the resurrection did NOT happen.

Paul makes Christianity testable: Jesus died, was buried, was raised, and appeared to people. Then he says that if Christ has not been raised, Christian faith is useless. The resurrection is not just an inspiring idea. It is the center of the case.

FOLLOW THE CLAIM

List four claims Paul expects his readers to take seriously:

CLAIM LIST

INVESTIGATE

If you were investigating the resurrection, what evidence or question would you examine next?

NEXT QUESTION

DAY 3 - CLAIMS

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 14-20 (NLT)

CONTINUED

HISTORY NOTE

Writers outside the New Testament also show that Jesus and the early Christian movement were not invented centuries later. Josephus connects Jesus with James, Tacitus places His execution under Pontius Pilate, and Pliny describes Christians worshiping Christ. That does not prove the resurrection - it corroborates parts of the historical setting.

FIELD CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain why the resurrection matters to Christianity. Do not try to win an argument. Explain the claim clearly enough that someone else could understand it.

2 SENTENCES

PRAY IT

Jesus, because You truly rose from the dead, that changes everything. Help me seek what is true, not just what is easy. Give me faith that is thoughtful, humble, and centered on You. Amen.

FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE

DAY 4 - TRUTH

READ: Matthew 5:17-18; John 17:17; James 1:22 (NLT)

CASE NOTE

TRUST SHOULD CHANGE HOW YOU LIVE

"Your word is truth." - John 17:17

CONNECT THE DOTS

Read all three passages. Beside each reference, write one sentence: What does this show about Scripture, truth, or what we are supposed to do with God's Word?

SCRIPTURE NOTES

Jesus did not treat Scripture as disposable. He spoke of fulfilling it and prayed that God's word is truth. James refuses to let Bible study stop at information: hear the Word and do what it says. Growing confidence in Scripture should produce deeper obedience to Jesus.

DAY 4 - TRUTH

MY RESPONSE

CONTINUED

MY RESPONSE

What is ONE thing about the Bible you feel more confident about after this week?

WRITE IT DOWN

OPEN QUESTION

What question is still open for you? Be specific. You do not need to fake certainty.

WRITE IT DOWN

OBEDIENCE STEP

What is one clear teaching of Jesus or Scripture you will obey this week?

WRITE IT DOWN

MY NEXT STEP

I will keep investigating:

I will talk with:

I will follow Jesus this week by:

CASE DEBRIEF

The goal was never to finish four pages. The goal was to learn a way to approach faith: ask the question, open Scripture, follow the evidence, seek truth, and then respond to Jesus.

PRAY IT

Jesus, help me trust You with my mind and my life. When I have questions, keep me from hiding them or using them as an excuse to walk away. Teach me to seek truth and then live what You show me. Amen.