

HARD QUESTION: DO YOU TRUST THE BIBLE?



Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JULY 2, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: The Bible has a lot to say about many things in life, but how can you be sure you can trust it? Ultimately, it comes down to a question of faith, but below are a few reasons to tip the scales in *favor of trusting it as God's word.*

2. FACTS

The names of over 40 different kings of various countries mentioned in the Bible have all been found in contemporary documents and inscriptions outside of the Old Testament, and are always consistent with the times and places associated with them in the Bible.

In 1947, archaeologists discovered the Dead Sea scrolls. They were 1,000 years older than the oldest copy to that point, and they were 99.5% identical, the only differences being in spelling and sentence word order.

We have 5,000 ancient copies of the New Testament, all identical, and the earliest existing copies are just 50-100 years after the events they describe.

Q. Before now, have you ever taken a serious look at the historical evidence/criticism of the Bible?

Q. Does research like this make you more confident or less confident in the Bible?

3. BIBLE VERSE

Paul said in
1 Corinthians 1:18 [NLT]

"The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God."



Jesus' disciples didn't take the gospel message lightly - they were willing to die for it. After Jesus commissioned them, Paul, along with 10 of the remaining 11 disciples, were speared, beheaded or crucified for their faith - hardly the sort of thing you'd do if you made up the story!

Q. Do you believe the Bible is *the* source of truth about God? If so, what evidence / factor was the most important in making your decision?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for telling us about Himself through the Bible. Ask Him to continue to speak to you as you study scripture, and to deepen your confidence in the Bible as the source of truth.



NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

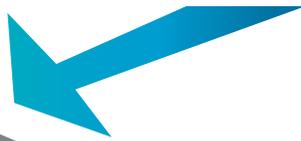
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1. ACTIVITY: "With God Nothing is Impossible!"

Write our power verse for this week on a piece of a paper and cut it up word by word. As a family, work together putting the pieces of the power verse back together. As you do, help your kids memorize this verse. This verse is key to help them with any type of difficulty or challenge they may face!



2. POWER VERSE

Luke 18:27

"...What is impossible for people is possible with God."

This week we continue our series "Say What?" by talking about the "Impossible." Many people say things like, "That's impossible," but it's important our children learn all things are possible with God!



Start by Reading Matthew 19:16-30.

Q. What do you think the word "impossible" means?

Q. What do you think is "impossible"?

Q. When it comes to God, is there anything that you think is too hard or "impossible" for Him?

3. APPLICATION

In our story today, we learn that nothing is impossible for God. Even when things seem difficult, Jesus can do the impossible!

Read Mark 9:14-29

Q. What did Jesus say to the man in verse 23?

Q. What does that verse mean to you?



Jesus healed the boy in our story because with Him nothing is impossible! Whatever you need Jesus to do for you, or someone you love, Jesus can do it - because He can do the impossible if we just have faith and believe!



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Ask your children what types of things they need Jesus to do for them or the people they love. Pray together that He will do the IMPOSSIBLE!