

Hillcrest Life Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, October 18, 2020



Can We Trust the Bible's Portrayal of Jesus?

1 John 1:1-3

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Get to Know You

What is your favorite thing to share with someone else (food, experience, joke, etc.)?

Study the Book

Read Acts 1 John 1:1-4

Why did the author of 1 John write this letter? Who is the author?

Would he have been a reliable source? Why?

You can trust that people who lived in Jesus' day wrote the New Testament.

What evidence from Paul's writings do we have that contemporaries of Jesus wrote the New Testament?

Why are the words receive, pass on, and Scripture important in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4?

You can trust that the Bible was faithfully copied.

Pastor Tom talked about “variants” in ancient copies of the Bible. What are they? Do variants between ancient copies undermine the reliability of the Bible?

You can trust that archaeology verifies the stories of the Bible.

Does anyone know of any archaeological findings that support Biblical accounts?

You can trust the consistency of the Bible.

How can the differences in the eye witness accounts in the Gospels strengthen the reliability of the accounts rather than weaken the reliability?

You can trust the selection of the Bible’s writings.

The early church did not invent the Bible to have a source for the stories they taught about Jesus. But the early church did identify which gospels and letters were written by apostles (or associates of apostles). Why would this be an important qualification for identifying a book as a reliable guide to the words and actions of Jesus?

Group Application and Discussion

What questions came to mind concerning the reliability of Scripture?

What resources are available to help answer these questions?

Who will find some answers this week and bring their findings to class next week?

Personal Reflection and Application

The Bible encourages us to be “constantly nourished on the words of the faith” (1 Timothy 4:6 NASB). From now until the end of 2020...

...what can you change in your schedule so that you can be “nourished” from reading Scripture on your own?

...what can you change in your schedule so that you can be “nourished” from studying Scripture with others?