

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

When in Doubt

Week 4: Doubting the Bible
Isaiah 46:10

Week of April 25, 2021
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

How can we know if the Bible is true? What evidence proves that we can trust God's Word is reliable? These are questions every believer asks at some point. This week, we take a closer look into the evidence found about, and in, the Word of God.

Kicking it off: If archeologists were to unearth your home 100 years from now, what's one thing they would find that proves you walked the earth (e.g., what's one of your most treasured personal possessions)?

Discussion:

1. Going way back to the garden of Eden — if you've ever had doubts about God's Word, you are not alone. What do you think is a benefit Satan might have for convincing Eve that she had misunderstood God, and that He could not be trusted?

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?"

2. Isaiah was a prophet who was tempted to waiver between the God of Israel and false pagan gods. (Can you relate?) Now, read *Isaiah 46:10-11* where God tries to reassure Isaiah.

"I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do."

What are some reasons you think we're often tempted to doubt God's Word is true?

3. In the message, Jeff mentioned the *Criterion of Embarrassment*, which gives us clues that the Bible is historically accurate ... because if it were fiction, many "embarrassing" details might be left out. How does understanding this evidence help strengthen your faith? What "embarrassing" stories from Scripture come to mind? Here are a few examples:
 - Mark 3:21
 - John 7:5, 12
 - Matthew 11:19

4. Read *Titus 2:1 and 2:5b* as Paul instructs the younger Titus. Why do you think it's a good idea to understand sound doctrine by reading God's Word and applying it to our personal lives? *"You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine so that no one will malign the word of God."*

Wrapping It Up: As you think about the "Family Bible" and your family's faith (or lack of faith) heritage. What kind of a spiritual legacy do you want to leave for your family and friends? Is it different than your own? How can your small group encourage you in that?

Close in prayer, asking God to help your group continue grow stronger in your faith and pursuing His Word in your life.