

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

The Writings
Week 3: Origin
2 Peter 3:15-16

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It's amazing to think that God Himself, in order to connect with each one of us, penned a book to the whole world. That result? The Bible, the best-selling book of all time. What would it look like if you were to fully grasp its beginnings? This week, we're diving in to exactly that.

Kicking It Off:

Suppose you were a famous inventor. What would you be known for having created? (real or imagined!)

Discussion:

1. What are some highlights you've gained about *the Writings* from the most recent message, or this series in general? How has it challenged you to grow in your confidence of studying Scripture?

2. Jeff explained how God divinely influenced over 40 people, on three continents, spanning 1,000+ years to weave His truth into the minds of the human authors. According to 2 Peter 3:15b-16, what makes God's Word genuine and authentic?

"Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction." (NIV)

3. What does it mean that the Bible is God-breathed, according to 2 Timothy 3:16? In what ways does that **inspiration** help you trust God more? What holds you back from embracing it?

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (NIV)

4. God sovereignly worked to make sure we have the right books in the Bible, known as the **canonization**, including the *TaNak* (Law, Prophets, and Writings). If you realize that even Jesus had the exact same Old Testament that we do today, how might that grow your faith?

5. When you think about the **transmission** of Scripture from copy to copy through years and years, what do the Dead Sea Scrolls have to do with it? What doubts does it raise for you? Why does accuracy matter?

6. Jeff mentioned that we have "an embarrassment of riches" on Bible versions. Visit Biblegateway.com and compare this week's anchor verse in different **translations**. What other tools do you use to make God's Word come to life and feel more applicable?

Wrapping Up:

Jude verse 3 states, *"I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."* (NIV) We can rest assured that the very same supernatural power God used to create His Word has also been used to preserve it throughout history. Pray for each group member to grow in their confidence of applying the Scriptures and sense an urgency to defend the faith God has entrusted to us all.