

exploreGod: Is the Bible Reliable?

Various Scriptures

Brandon Lauranzon, May 27 & 28, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Luke 1:1-4; John 5:39-40. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever questioned the reliability of the Bible? What aspects of the Bible have caused you to question its reliability the most?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE BIBLE: A RELIABLE SOURCE

- 3 Theologians say that the Bible is "inspired". What does that mean? How would you respond to someone who says, "The Bible is a just human document like any other book"?
- 4 St. Augustine said, "When the Bible speaks, God speaks." What kind of implications/applications should this have for us when we read the Bible? Why did Brandon talk about the Jefferson Bible?

THE BIBLE: A RELIABLE HISTORY

- 5 Do you think most people view the Bible as history or myth? What aspects of the Bible clue you into the fact that you are reading ancient reportage, and not legends?
- 6 How would you respond to someone who says, “You cannot trust the New Testament because the gospels were written hundreds of years after Jesus and they are full of inaccuracies”?

THE BIBLE: A RELIABLE MESSAGE

- 7 *An accurate diagnosis.* How does the Bible diagnose what’s wrong with our world and us? How does the Bible’s diagnosis compare with that of other religions?
- 8 *A miracle cure.* Read John 5:39-40 again. Why did the religious leaders refuse to come to Jesus for life? How does a religious person read the Bible? Discuss the following quote: “The main message of the Bible is not about what you are to do, the main message of the Bible is about what God has done for you in Jesus.”
- 9 What was the point of the illustration about *The Neverending Story*?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?