

Explore God Adventurer's Guide

SESSION SIX

Big Question: *How can I increase my trust in the Bible and help others do the same?*

In our discussion today, we will be wrestling with this question: *How can I increase my trust in the Bible and help others do the same?* This is a great question for us to go deeper into as Christians:

- Do we really *trust* the Bible to be the Word of God and thus the authority in how I live?
- How can I put into practice my adherence to the Bible for others to experience?

In our culture today, an “influencer” is a literal career. Influencers have been identified as key people who live a brand of life that others desire and seek to imitate or have themselves. As Christians, there is one person we should be looking to as our influencer: Jesus.

And all of our understanding of who Jesus is, how he lived, what he taught, and how we can align ourselves with him is found in the Bible. As we get into our discussion, let's remember that we want to engage with the Bible as authority and influence in our life. It's the “plumb-line” of all our pursuits. If we want to build up our trust in God's Word, we must not only be readers and hearers of it but doers of His Word, too. We can't and won't grow in trusting God's Word if we don't know the God who spoke those words and inspired the biblical authors. We begin and grow to *trust* the Bible as we spend time with the Living God of whom the Bible speaks. This is a relationship that is present and possible in our lives because of what Jesus has done for us.

Introduction

We want to wrestle through what it means to be imitators of Jesus and what it would mean and look like for us to practice the same kind of trust in and submission to the Father that Jesus demonstrated.

Ephesians 5 speaks of being imitators of God. In the gospel of John, Jesus' claims to being God are made known: “The word became flesh and dwelt among us.” God took on flesh and embodied his words of promise, truth, and life in Jesus. The word for dwelling is associated with the Hebrew word *tabernacle* which was the place of God's dwelling with His people Israel in the Old Testament. While the tabernacle offered a place for God to dwell with and near His people, it wasn't near enough. In giving Jesus as a once-for-all sacrifice for sin, God would make His dwelling place in the hearts of anyone who called on the name of Jesus for salvation and forgiveness. This is where our trust in the Word of God comes from: not ourselves but from the very seeds of our identity as children of God. As those seeds are watered by practices of trust and submission (such as listening to God's Word, doing what it says, prayer, worshiping God with others), our trust grows and we can become influencers of the way of Jesus.

Watch and discuss:

[Is the Bible Reliable?](#)

The Bible is the best selling book of all time. It's also one of the most controversial books of all time. If people are questioning its reliability, how will they trust what it says? The Curiosity Collective compiles thoughts from subject matter experts, pastors, and theologians about the reliability of the Bible.

1. What is your perspective on the Bible's reliability?

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2. How compelling (or not compelling) is Eric's evidence for the Bible's reliability? Explain your thoughts.

Scripture

Ephesians 5:1-3; Matthew 16:24; John 13:12-15; John 1:1-5, 14; 3:1-12; Proverbs 3:1-

12 Read and Discuss Ephesians 5:1-2; Matthew 16:24; John 13:12-15:

1. What do these passages say about trusting Jesus?
2. What does it say about imitation and trust?
3. How do they describe a relationship with God?

Read and Discuss John 1:1-5, 14; Proverbs 3:1-12:

1. Why do you think trusting Jesus leads to trusting the Bible?
2. Discuss what trusting the Word of God looks like in someone's daily life.
3. In what ways can trusting God not just in words but actions and choices lead to influencing others?

Wrap Up

The Bible is understood in a variety of ways: a book of myths, a violent story about an evil god, a book of wisdom about life, the living Word of God, a legal document that prescribes every area of life. It also claims to be God-breathed. And through fulfilled prophecy, it has shown itself to be something beyond just human creation—indeed, perhaps even supernatural.

Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." In other words, this writer seems to think that there is something special about this book—that it will outlast nature. Another passage states unequivocally that the Bible is "God breathed." If any of this is true, then clearly the Bible is worth our sincere consideration.

In what ways might the Bible be "offering a better story, a story to help make sense of our crazy human existence"?

Explore More on the Bible

Videos

What Is the Bible? (<http://www.exploreogod.com/video-what-is-the-bible>)

Agnostic (<http://www.exploreogod.com/agnostic-video>)

Articles

Is the Bible Still Relevant? (<http://www.exploreogod.com/is-the-bible-still-relevant>) How to Read the Bible (<http://www.exploreogod.com/how-to-read-the-bible>)

A Deeper Look at If the Bible Is Reliable (<http://www.exploreogod.com/is-the-bible-reliable-paper>)