

1 John 1:1–5 “Why I Trust the Bible” Discussion Questions

Sermon Refresher: We believe what we believe primarily on the basis of authority. There are good reasons for us to trust the authority of the Bible:

- The New Testament writings were written by credible witnesses.
 - The four Gospels are based on carefully preserved eyewitness testimony.
 - The Gospels were written within the lifetime of eyewitnesses.
 - These eyewitnesses were willing to die for the truth of what they saw.
- Our Bible is a credible transmission of the apostles’ writings.
- Jesus trusted the authority of the Bible.
- The Bible provides the best explanation for my experience and the human condition.

Discussion:

1. One reason to trust the Bible is how it helps us fight sin. That ties in with what we talked about at small group last time: how to make progress in running the race, how to fight sin. The Exercise from last time took biblical promises and applied them to specific areas in our life, like anxiety or comparing ourselves to others. How did that go for you?
2. Read Luke 1:1–4. What difference does it make that the Gospels are built on eyewitness testimony? Why does Luke say it matters for Theophilus?
3. Dave gave four key reasons that he trusts the Bible. Which of those reasons hit home for you?
4. We all look to some kind of authority to guide us. The Bible is authoritative, because God has breathed it out (2 Tim 3:17) and speaks through it. What authorities do you look to? Where do you think you need to let the Bible be the authority in your life?

5. If the Bible is a trustworthy authority, it means we need to pay attention. It's giving us the best explanation and guide for our lives. We're going to practice reading a passage together, therefore, to help us see how to pay attention to what it says.¹

Read Mark 5:1–20 aloud as a group and then give everyone a chance to read it silently. As you read, look for three types of things:



A light bulb: anything that shines out in the passage and draws attention; it can be something important, or something that particularly strikes you.



A question mark: anything that is hard to understand; something that you would like to be able to ask the author about.



An arrow: anything that applies personally to your life.

Take a few minutes to write down what you see. Try to write down at least one thing under each category and no more than three.

Go around and share your light bulbs and discuss. Do the same for your question marks; do your best to work out together answers from the passage but don't feel pressure to answer everything on the spot. Then each share your arrow and discuss.

Mark 5:1–20



¹ This plan comes from David Helm, *One to One Bible Reading* (Holy Trinity Church / Matthias, 2011), 43–45.

2 Peter 1:19 “Why I Love the Bible” Exercise

The exercise this week is to help you read the Bible for yourself. Over the course of this week (or two weeks), you can read or listen to Mark 1–3.² For each reading look for three things:³



A light bulb: anything that shines out in the passage and draws attention; it can be something important, or something that particularly strikes you.



A question mark: anything that is hard to understand; something that you would like to be able to ask the author about.



An arrow: anything that applies personally to your life.

Write down at least one thing under each category and no more than three things.

Mark 1:1–15



² If you're enjoying this plan, then feel free to keep going beyond Mark 3.

³ David Helm, *One to One Bible Reading* (Holy Trinity Church / Matthias, 2011), 43–45.

Mark 1:16–45



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Mark 2:1–28



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Mark 3:1–35



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