

## APOLOGETICS 101 – Part 5 – For Discipleship Class

### Can We Trust the Bible?

If the Bible is God's Word, then it is the \_\_\_\_\_ for everything we believe. This chapter helps your students grow confident that Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ and learn how to handle it correctly.

### Key Scriptures (NKJV References)

- **2 Timothy 3:16–17**- All Scripture is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- **2 Peter 1:20–21** - Holy men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- **Psalms 119:160** - The entirety of Your word is \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Matthew 24:35** - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will \_\_\_\_\_ pass away.
- **Hebrews 4:12** - The Word of God is living and powerful.
- **Isaiah 40:8** - The word of our God stands \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why This Question Comes Up

People often ask:

- “How do you know the Bible hasn't been changed?”
- “Isn't the Bible just written by men?”
- “Why should I trust Scripture over my feelings?”

### Here's a steady truth:

Yes, **God used people to write Scripture**, but the Bible teaches that those writers were **guided by the \_\_\_\_\_**. The Bible is not a random religious book. It is God's truth given to us for salvation, growth, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Biblical Points (Write These in Your Heart)

1. **Scripture is inspired by God and \_\_\_\_\_ for our whole life.** (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
2. **The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the writers of Scripture.** (2 Peter 1:20–21)
3. **God’s Word is true from beginning to \_\_\_\_\_** (Psalm 119:160)
4. **God’s Word outlasts \_\_\_\_\_ else.** (Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8)
5. **The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ and powerful, not dead ink.** (Hebrews 4:12)
6. **God’s Word is the measure; feelings must \_\_\_\_\_ to truth.** (John 17:17)
7. **We are called to handle \_\_\_\_\_ accurately.** (2 Timothy 2:15)

## Definitions (Must-Know for Ministry Workers)

1) **Scripture** - The written Word of God- the Bible, Old and New Testament.

2) **Inspiration** - God “breathed” His Word through human writers so that what they wrote is what God \_\_\_\_\_.

3) **Revelation** - God making truth known, He reveals His \_\_\_\_\_, His will, and His \_\_\_\_\_.

4) **Canon (Bible Canon)** is the word Christians use for the *recognized collection of books* that belong in the Bible and are accepted as **Scripture**, God’s trustworthy Word for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The canon is the set of writings God’s people have received as His Word, used for teaching, \_\_\_\_\_, and growth in Jesus.

5) **Context** - What comes before and \_\_\_\_\_ a verse, and the setting of the passage, context keeps us from misunderstanding.

6) **Interpretation** - Understanding what a Scripture means (what it meant to the \_\_\_\_\_ audience).

**7) Application** - How we obey and \_\_\_\_\_ out what Scripture teaches today.

**8) Doctrine** - Bible-based teaching about God, salvation, and \_\_\_\_\_ living.

### “Scripture Confidence”

The Bible is trustworthy because:

- **God is truthful** (He cannot lie).
- **God’s Word is consistent** in its message: God saves through Jesus.
- **God’s Word produces** \_\_\_\_\_: conviction, wisdom, faith, and \_\_\_\_\_.

### How to Read the Bible in Context (Mini Guide)

3-step method:

Step 1 — Read the Verse

Write the verse reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2 — Read Around the Verse

Read 5–10 verses before and after.

What is the topic being discussed?

Step 3 — Ask Two Questions

1. **What did it mean then?** (Original meaning)
2. **How should I live it now?** (Application)

## Common Misuses to Avoid

- 1) “One-verse doctrines.” Building a whole belief off one verse without reading \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) “Feelings over Scripture” Saying, “I feel like God said...” but it contradicts the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) “Using verses like weapons.” We use truth to **heal** and \_\_\_\_\_, not to crush people.

## Check-in Questions

- 1) **2 Timothy 3:16** says all Scripture is given by inspiration of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) **2 Peter 1** says holy men spoke as they were moved by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) **Psalm 119:160** says the entirety of God’s Word is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) **True or False: Context doesn’t matter as long as you quote a verse.**
- 5) **Hebrews 4:12** says the Word of God is living and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Quick Review

The Bible is God’s inspired Word, given through writers guided by the Holy Spirit. Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and powerful, and it equips believers for every good \_\_\_\_\_. We grow stronger in apologetics and discipleship when we read the Word in \_\_\_\_\_, understand its meaning, and apply it faithfully.

## Reflection Questions

1. What makes it hard for people to trust the Bible today?
2. How has Scripture personally changed you or strengthened you?
3. What happens when people rely on feelings more than the Word?
4. What is one habit you can start to grow in Bible reading?
5. What is your favorite Bible verse, and why does it matter to you?

## Guided Prayer

Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help me trust it, love it, and live it. Teach me to handle Scripture correctly and to grow strong in truth and gentle in love. Let Your Word renew my mind and guide my steps. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Practical Challenge

This week, pick **one Gospel chapter** (like John 1, John 3, or John 15) and read it slowly across 3 days. Each day write:

1. One truth about Jesus
2. One lesson for your life
3. One short prayer

Discipleship Class – by Stephanie Smith – Bible Teacher and Evangelist  
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