

Objective: Family members live out God's Word with complete confidence and be ready to defend its truth.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson applies to all of Scripture, affirming that the Old Testament and New Testament were given to us and preserved by God. We can be confident that the Bible we read is the inspired Word of God.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **Who wrote the Bible? Answer:** Holy men of God wrote the Bible, being guided in their writing by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

Read the Word: 1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 5:18; Luke 3:1-2

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we can be confident that our Bibles are God's Word to us.



Key Truth: God Has Preserved the Accuracy of His Word (1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 5:18)

- Peter called the Scriptures the living and enduring Word of God. He said that all people are like the grass and flowers of a field, meaning their glory or beauty will wither away. The word of the Lord, however, will *endure forever* and offers eternal life (1 Peter 1:22-25).
- Jesus affirmed that nothing would pass from the Scriptures. They would serve their purpose (Matthew 5:18).
- The Old Testament books were carefully copied by Jewish scribes, who followed meticulous practices and routines. The Old Testament is often quoted by Jesus and the apostles. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls verified that the Old Testament we have today is the same Scripture used and recognized by Jesus in the first century.
- The books of the New Testament were eyewitness, historical accounts of the events related to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and the establishment of His Church. Each book has some form of apostolic authority supporting it, either in authorship or content. The large number of copies allow us to reconstruct the original and know they are accurate.



Key Truth: There Are Reliable Evidences for the Truth of God's Word (Luke 3:1-2)

- Since the Christian faith is based on historical people and events, it is the most verifiable and testable faith. As we see in Luke 3:1-2, the Bible is full of historical details, making the biblical accounts historically verifiable. There are many external sources (non-biblical) that support the biblical account. Some sources are from non-Christians like the Roman historian, Tacitus, or the devoted Jewish historian, Josephus, who refer directly to Christ or His followers.
- Archaeological discoveries also support what is found in the Bible. Skeptics considered the Hittites to be biblical legend until major discoveries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries affirmed their existence. In 2004, archaeologists unearthed a pool, believed to be called the Siloam Pool. This confirmed the biblical account of Jesus healing a blind man at a pool called Siloam in John 9. These are only two examples of many discoveries supporting biblical accounts and records.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean that God has preserved His Word for us?
- **Why is it important that God has preserved His Word down through history?**
- How would you answer someone who asked how we can be sure the Bible we have today is what God and the original writers intended?
- **Why can we trust the Bible's reliability?**
- What kinds of external evidence affirm the accuracy of the Bible?
- **How does knowing God's Word doesn't change help you trust it more?**

Everyday Extras

Ask your children to copy a passage of Scripture in their best handwriting using an ink pen. Emphasize that they should have no errors. When they have finished, ask them to count the letters in their copy to be sure it matches the number of letters in the original. That's what the early scribes did! God's Word was carefully preserved by those who loved it, but also by God Himself. He wanted us to confidently know His instructions to us. Your older children will benefit from watching Dr. Daniel B. Wallace discuss "How Many Bible Manuscripts?" (Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, 2011) as he defends the reliability of Scripture. He compares early copies of other ancient Greco-Roman literature to manuscripts of the Scripture. You can find it on YouTube.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul encouraged Timothy to share God's truths with others, make good choices, and love God with all his heart. We can tell others the truth of what God's Word says. We can learn how to make right choices and ask God to forgive us when we make wrong ones. We can love God with all our hearts. We can know **God's Word Is True.**