

The 6 “e” tests for the reliability of the Bible.

E early testimony
eyewitness testimony

E embarrassing testimony
excruciating testimony

E expected testimony
extra-biblical testimony

WEEK 37

September 17-23, 2017

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon as a supplement.

Summary

Our faith is indeed faith. We are not able to prove important things like God's existence, or creation. But our faith is a reasonable faith, it is not blind. We do believe because “God said,” but we also have certain evidences around us that lend to the narrative of the Bible. We started this wee with looking at 6 specific tests for the reliability of God's Word. The reasons behind our faith in the Bible as God's story of how He has, is and will continue to work among his human creation (that's us!). A great summary from Sunday's message was Paul's testimony in Acts 26:25-26: “But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.”

We too should have such confidence in God's Word and what we have seen him do in our own lives.

Text or Important Verses

2 Peter 3:15

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Time: If you have kids, this is a perfect time to talk to them about why you have spent all of this time and energy on your faith. Why are your spiritual disciplines of Scripture reading, prayer, church attendance and witnessing so important to you? In short, with all that life has to offer...why bother with something that does not seemingly produce immediate results?

Moments: On a scale from 1 to 10, how confident are you in your ability to give a reason for the hope that lies within you? Are you preparing your children and grandchildren to be able to give a reason for theirs? What very specific actions could you take beginning this week to strengthen these two aspects of your spiritual life?

Resource: Here is a 50 minute video of apologist Ravi Zachariah introducing 21st century apologetics. Watch it before your group and use what you have learned to deepen your discussion time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80zK6m2PLKY>

GETTING STARTED

Before you meet, take time to work through the “Digging Deeper” section on your own. We encourage you to open your study with prayer. Then, read the sermon summary followed by reading the main text.

DIGGING DEEPER



Light Bulb

Together as a group, discuss what stuck out to you about the sermon or the text. For others to understand, explain why.



Question Mark

Did Sunday's sermon or this text raise any questions in your mind about this topic or something you would like explained?



The Cross

Where can we identify Jesus in this text? How does this relate to Him?



Moving Forward

Discuss personal application with one another. What can you identify that God is trying to show you? What is your next step in commitment and obedience to Him as you try to live out these truths this week?



Outreach Thoughts

Write down the name of someone who could benefit from hearing this. Commit to praying for this person and plan to reach out to them.