

## Lesson Plan 7

# Is The Bible Reliable?

### Objective

Students will learn that we can prove the Bible is from God by looking at comparative ancient writings and the acid test.

### Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Is The Bible Reliable - Student Booklet (one per student)
- Is The Bible Reliable - Teacher Booklet
- Bible
- Pens/Pencils/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Blank Sheets of Paper (one for each student and teacher)
- Watch/Clock or Timer

### Optional Supplies

- Snack - Your Choice - Crackers, Fruit etc.

### Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson 1

## 1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

Say: **Over the weeks we have talked about different kinds of evidence and prophecies. Today's lesson will be proving if the Bible is reliable. This will help you be able to know for sure that the Bible truly is from God and will help you share that knowledge with others.**

## 2) Class Time - Is The Bible Reliable

30 minutes

Hand out the student booklets and pencils to each student. Have them write their name somewhere on the front of the booklet.

Ask the class: **Has anyone ever said to you the Bible isn't really from God?** (Let students answer).

**Today we are going to prove the Bible is reliable by looking at what we call the Acid test and comparing different historical writings.**

**I would like us all to read together. If there is something you have a question about while we read, raise your hand. I will ask for volunteers; you don't have to read but you can if you would like. I will ask the questions and you can all take turns answering. Let's begin.**

Read through the booklet – students have the same as the teachers without the answers.

## 3) Activity Time - Reliable Game

15 minutes

### Prep

Before class, have paper and pens/markers available and a watch/timer to keep time.

### Activity

For the game if more than 5 students split them into two groups and see who can get closest to the original phrase.

Say: **Every once in a while, there is a great question that curious students ask. They say something like 'how can we trust that the Bible matches what was written originally?' We looked at that today in our study but let's take this a step further and see how it would actually work.**

**Remember that telephone game, where people whisper from one person to the next hoping that there is no trickster that mangles the message. If the message is different, everyone laughs and then tries again...or not.**

Hand out a sheet to each student and give a pen. Tell them: **One person will have a phrase written, the one sitting beside you will draw a picture explaining the phrase. Then the next person will try to write a phrase based on what they see in the picture and so on.**

- 1. Do not look at each other's sheets.**
- 2. No speaking**
- 3. If you are drawing the picture you cannot write any words.**
- 4. Everyone face the other way except the student sitting next me until you have your turn.**
- 5. You must write or draw in 30 seconds.**

(Name the student sitting beside you) Write the phrase on your sheet: *The Bible is true.*

Tell the student they can now draw a picture of what they read. Do the best they can. When they are done, tell the next student to turn and look to see what they drew and now write the phrase they think matches the picture – NO TALKING! And make sure you as the teacher hide your phrase so they don't know the original. Go through until they all have a turn.

Say: **How did it turn out?** (Let students answer)

**People wonder if we possibly distort messages, how was the Bible written accurately?**

**First of all in the telephone game, there is a 1 to 1 correspondence and regression. The message is only given to the next person who then transfers it. However, for the Bible, the process was different.**

**Everyone flip your page. Now write the phrase I have written on my sheet. This is the original. *The Bible is true.***

**Now after you have written that, I want you to all check each other's work to make sure they all say the same thing. Do they all say: "The Bible is true"? (Let students answer) This is how it would have been with the Bible. There would have been the original and a group would have each written what was written in the original and each would have checked each other's work.**

**How easy is it to make a mistake if everyone can see the original and copy from it and check it? It's not easy to make a mistake at all! If there was a mistake it would be noticed and fixed.**

**If the Bible was seen as the Word of God (which it was) professional scribes would painstakingly check for errors. And, even if there were small errors like a missing period, or the word "the" written 2 times, the message is still the same. Minor errors like spelling mistakes don't make the Bible inaccurate. We can trust it to be true and accurate and know it was copied and checked thoroughly. This is a small example of how it would have worked 2000 years ago. We can know and trust the reliability of the**

**Bible – it is true, real and accurate. God is very capable of making sure the Bible is exactly the way He wanted and needed it to be. We can trust God and the Bible.**

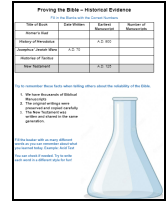
#### 4) Activity Time - Student Booklet Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Have the students turn to page 5 of their student booklet. Hand out pencils or colored pencils to the class.

Students will search through their booklet to fill in the chart from the Manuscript Copies to help remind them that the New Testament is a reliable, valid document. Help the students as needed. As a class, discuss the answers to the chart.

Then, move onto the next activity and have the students write as many words they can remember from today's class in the beaker. This can be done individually or together as a class. For additional fun, have a contest to see who can come up with the most words.



#### 5) Optional Activity - Snack (Your Choice)

5 minutes

Hand out a few snacks to each student. Say, **Today I want you to enjoy a snack while we remember all the fun facts we learned. The Bible is full of facts that are proven including historical evidence. What was your favorite historical fact you learned today and why? Let's go around the room and share.**

**So if someone tries to tell you the Bible is not accurate, what can you say to them?** Let students answer.

**This is more evidence that the Bible is accurate, which we would expect if it came from God.**

#### 6) Optional Activity - Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

Everyone go to **John 8:32** in their Bibles and read the verse aloud as a class 2 times.

**John 8:32** “*and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*”

Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: “and you will know...” a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point to themselves “AND YOU”, point to their heads when they say “WILL KNOW”, etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

**Jesus is speaking about us having the ability to know what is true from the Bible.  
Everything in the Bible is true and we need to follow it to live good, pleasing lives.**

## 7) Closing Prayer

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Say closing prayer remembering to thank God for His Son and giving us the complete Word of God.