

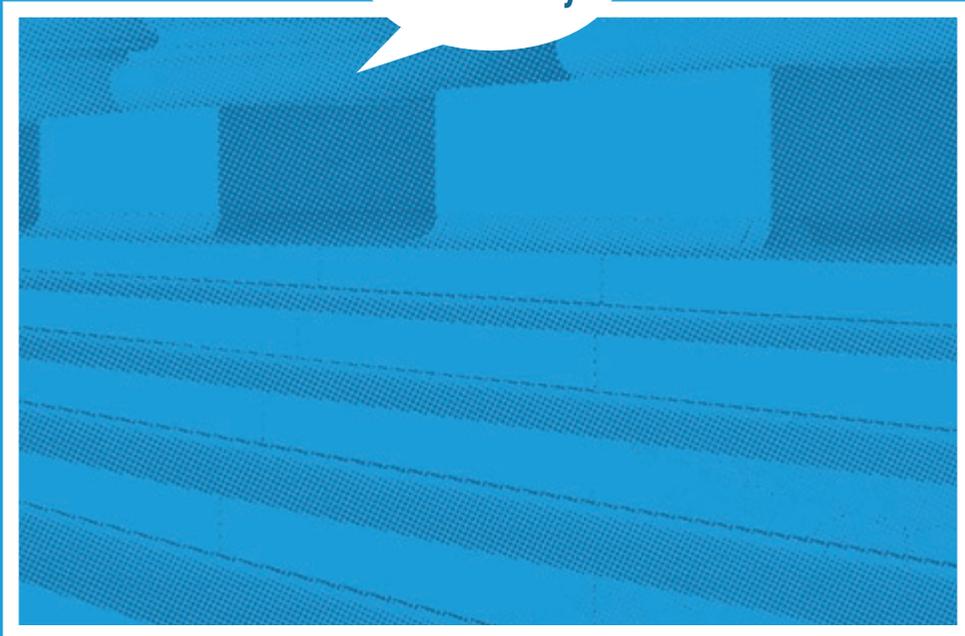
# STUDY GUIDE

Foundation: The Reliability of the Bible

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**Bible Savvy**



# FOUNDATION

## Study Guide

*The Study Guide* questions at the end of each chapter have been designed for your personal benefit. *All* questions can be used for personal study and, if you're part of a discussion group, for preparation for your group meeting. If you are part of a small group, you will find the questions preceded by the group icon  are especially useful for discussion. Your group leader can choose from among those questions when the group meets.

## Chapter I: Redemption Prompted

### Icebreaker

*What tall tale (i.e., frequently recounted and increasingly exaggerated personal story) has become well-known among your family or friends?*

1. What is wrong with viewing the Bible's inspiration in terms of its *writers* or *readers*?
  - According to 2 Timothy 3:16, what *is* it about the Bible that's inspired (i.e., God-breathed)? Practically speaking, what does this mean? How does *God-breathed* differ from *God-dictated*?
-  2. Describe a situation in which your belief that the Bible is *God's* Word was called into question or ridiculed. How did you defend your position at the time (or *did* you)?
-  3. List and briefly describe the six evidences that point to the supernatural character of the Bible. Which of these impresses you the most? Why?
4. Give three reasons for believing in the inerrancy of Scripture.
  - In what sense would refusing to believe in the Bible's inerrancy put you in a position of authority over Scripture?
-  5. How might you respond to someone who claims that the Bible is "full of errors"?

6. In what way(s) is the counsel of God's Word different from the counsel you receive from any other source (e.g., friend, therapist, self-help book, teacher, consultant, etc.)?



7. What is the basic difference between the guy who builds on rock and the one who builds on sand in Jesus' parable (Matthew 7:24-29)? Give some real-life examples of what could happen to you if you build on sand.



8. What step(s) might you take to ensure that you are building your life on rock?



9. Describe a time in your life (if you can) when obedience to some directive in God's Word brought you blessing.

## Chapter 2: Lost in Transmission

### Icebreaker

*Describe a favorite party or board game.*



1. Why is the telephone game *not* a good analogy for how the Bible was passed down over the years?

2. Why should we *not* be alarmed by Dr. Bart Ehrman's claim that there are 200,000 to 400,000 variants in our copies of the New Testament?



• Why do you think a book like Ehrman's *Misquoting Jesus* became a bestseller?

3. Who approved which books made it into the Old Testament and the New Testament?



4. Use the Rembrandt analogy to explain why these two councils did not *make* the approved books to be God's Word.

• How does our understanding of this point impact our view of the Bible's authority?

5. List the four standards that were used in determining which books made it into the Bible and explain what is meant by each standard.

6. Next to each of standards 1–3, write out the phrase(s) from Luke 1:1–4 that supports it.



7. Why didn't the rejected gospels (which Dan Brown is so fond of) make it into the Bible?



- From what you know of Mr. Brown and his novel, why do you think he is such proponent of the rejected gospels?

8. Why would historical inaccuracies do serious damage to the Bible's credibility?



9. Several examples of how Scripture passes the accuracy test are given in *Foundation*. Pick a favorite that you'll be able to remember when the topic of the Bible's historical reliability comes up in conversation. Write it down here.

10. Why did the Roman Catholic Church add the apocryphal books to the Bible at the Council of Trent in 1546? Why don't Protestants accept these books as Scripture?



11. What did you learn in this chapter that bolsters your confidence in the Bible?

## Chapter 3: The Only Way to Know

### Icebreaker

*What guidelines do you think people should follow when providing information about themselves on Facebook? Is social media a good tool for getting to know other people? Why or why not?*



1. When it comes to knowing who God is, what's the difference between *speculation* and *revelation*?



• Why is “I have my own ideas about God” such a ridiculous statement?

2. What are the two main sources of revelation about God? Why is the second source necessary?



• What would you say to the guy who doesn't think that listening to a preacher in a church on Sunday is necessary since he can connect with God out in nature on his bass boat?

3. What specific truths about salvation is it important for a spiritual seeker to understand? Put a Bible verse or two that reveals each truth next to it.

4. What is the danger in not using Scripture when presenting the gospel to someone?



5. Have you found a booklet that has helped you communicate God's plan of salvation to others? If yes, what do you like about it? If no, how could you get your hands on such a resource this week?



- What are the benefits and liabilities of using a tool like this?
6. Why is it *not* helpful to ask yourself the question, *What is the wise thing to do?* when trying to make an important decision?
  7. How does the Bible equip you to make wise decisions?



- What is a big decision that you are currently faced with? What Bible verses (that you can think of) might help you with this decision—either by speaking to it directly, or by laying out principles for you to consider?



8. What specific steps could you take to ensure that you are moving in the direction of becoming Bible-wise?

## Chapter 4: Get a Grip

### Icebreaker

*What media-related activity is most likely to keep you from reading good books?*

1. Read Nehemiah 8:1–8 and note anything that strikes you about the way in which these people listened to God's Word.



2. Which of the four Bible-hearing tips would be most helpful if you put into practice? Why?



3. How many Bibles are there in your home (guesstimate)? How many days a week (be honest) do you sit down and read the Bible? If you read it less than three times a week, what keeps you from being a more consistent reader? If you read it three or more times a week, what has helped this become your regular habit?



- What is (or would be) the best time of the day and location for you to read the Bible? Why?

4. How does *studying* the Bible differ from merely *reading* it?



5. What are the benefits of studying the Bible with a group of people?

6. What is the relationship between *memorizing* and *meditating on* the Bible?

- What are some good reasons for you to memorize portions of the Bible? (If you have already become a Bible-memorizer, feel free to add your own reasons to the three that are mentioned in *Foundation*.)



7. Choose a text to memorize and write it out on a 3x5 card. What passage did you choose, and why?



8. Do a quick review of *Foundation* and write out your best takeaway from each of the four chapters.

“God’s Autobiography”

“Lost in Transmission?”

“The Only Way to Know”

“Get a Grip”