

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE TRUSTWORTHY WORD

Ice-breaker: What is your favorite passage of Scripture or biblical story? How has the Lord used that passage in your life?

Make sure to take time to listen to Pastor Tommy's sermon on [The Trustworthy Word](#) before this discussion.

DISCUSSION 1: John 7:53-8:11

1. Why do most scholars believe this passage was not original to John's gospel? What is the internal and external evidence that leads us to that conclusion?
2. What is text criticism and why should we not be nervous about discussing the variants in the manuscripts of the Bible? Why are more manuscripts better than less manuscripts?
3. The New Testament has over 24,000 manuscripts available to study while historically accepted books like Homer's *Iliad* have less than 700. Why should this encourage us as we read our Bible's today?
4. Compare and contrast the origin of the Bible and other revered texts like the Koran or Book of Mormon. Why is the Bible more trustworthy?
5. Read John 7:53 – 8:11. While this passage may not be part of the original text of Scripture, we read nothing about Jesus that we wouldn't find in other stories about him in Scripture. What does this story reveal about Jesus that we see elsewhere in Scripture?

DISCUSSION 2: SCRIPTURES INTERNAL WITNESS

1. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. What in this passage gives us confidence that what we read in the Scriptures is reliable and given from God not man?
2. Read 2 Peter 3:14-16. What is significant of this passage in relation to the inspiration of the Pauline letters in the New Testament?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How does this passage give us confidence that God speaks through his word? What are some evidences that you've seen that declare that God's word is living and active (Heb. 4)?

APPLICATION

1. **Personal:** Take time this week to read through Psalm 119 and underline all the ways the author describes the word of God and its character. Ask the Lord to give the delight in the word as the psalmist.
2. **Group:** Discuss together the sections of Scripture are difficult to understand or questions you may have about the reliability of the Scriptures. Make time over the course of the next month to seek to answer these questions together. Your pastors and elders would love to help you find resources to help anyone in your group.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Trustworthy Word:** Psalm 119, Is. 46:9-11, 2 Timothy 3:15-16, 2 Peter 1:16-21; 3:14-18,
- **Unbreakable Word:** Matt. 4:4, 5:17-18, Mark. 13:11, John 10:35, 1 Peter 1:24-25,
- **No Condemnation:** Psalm 103:1-14, Romans 5:9,20; 8:1-5, 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 8:12, John 5:14
- Books on the reliability of the Bible:
 - [Can We Trust the Gospels?](#) by Peter Williams
 - [New Testament Textual Criticism](#) by David Alan Black

- [*Misquoting Truth: A Guide to the Fallacies of Bart Ehrmans's Misquoting Jesus*](#) by Timothy Paul Jones