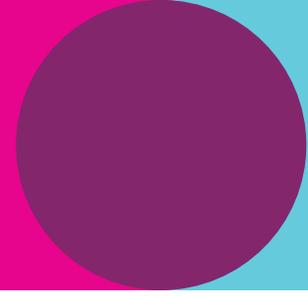


HOW TO KNOW THE TRUTH

3-YEAR-OLDS



1. THE BIBLE

Jesus described what was written in the Bible as the “word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by about 40 different people over a span of 1,600 years of human history. God guided human authors to write exactly what He wanted them to write. Like a captain who steers a sailing ship that is carried along by the wind, the Biblical writers wrote, but were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible has been carefully studied for more than 2,000 years and there have been no scientific, historical, or archaeological mistakes found in it. We can know that God is the author because only the Bible is 100% correct in its prophecies!

2. GOD

The Bible tells us that God is eternal, uncreated, and powerful. He fills heaven and earth with His presence. He is Spirit (John 4:24). He is timeless (2 Peter 3:8). He is unchanging (Psalm 102:27). He has no beginning and no end. He is over and above the universe. Yet, He is always near. There is nothing or no one else even remotely like God!

3. GOD THE CREATOR

The Bible tells us that “the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” (Hebrews 11:3). It also tells us that God placed the sun, moon, planets, and stars exactly where they needed to be (Psalm 8:3-4). Have you ever thought about what would happen if the earth were placed too close to the sun? It would be too hot! If the earth was just a bit farther from the sun, it would be too cold for living things. God placed earth exactly where it needed to be for humans to live comfortably. Genesis 2 tells us how the first people were created. Genesis 3 tells how the first people disobeyed God and how sin separates us from Him. The rest of the Bible is a story about how God loved us so much that He sent His Son so that we could have forgiveness, new life, and a home in heaven. Jesus died on the cross so that we would never have to be separated from God!

4. ANGELS AND DEMONS

Did you know that angels can appear as a burning bush (Acts 7:30), as wind or flames of fire (Hebrews 1:7), as horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 2:11; 6:17), and as humans (Genesis 18-19, Joshua 5:13-15; Hebrews 13:2)? They can even be invisible (Numbers 22:21-35). The Bible mentions angels more than 300 times. Angels are heavenly spirits whom God created. There are two groups of angels mentioned in the Bible—heavenly angels who carry out God’s commands (Psalm 103:20) and fallen angels (like Satan and demons) who oppose God.

5. GOD'S SON

Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, the people of Israel understood that God was preparing to send a special person to earth to rescue us from sin and death. This person was called the “Messiah” (in the Hebrew language) or “Christ” (in the Greek language). Question: How would the people know when the Messiah arrived?

Answer: God told the people of Israel what the Messiah would be like, where He would be born, and how He would die. The Old Testament has more than 300 prophecies about the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled every one of them! This is another way we can be sure that Jesus is the Messiah and God's special Son!

6. JESUS' RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important and greatest event in human history. Because of the resurrection we can be sure of God's existence, love, and power. We can know that everything Jesus taught should be believed and followed. Also, because of Christ's resurrection, Christians can be sure that their sins are forgiven and that they will be raised from the dead to be with God forever in heaven.

When a bee stings someone, the insect will often lose its stinger. When this happens, the bee's power to harm anyone has been taken away. The Bible tells us that Jesus removed “death's sting” when He died on the cross. Because of this, we don't have to fear death—we know that the devil's power to harm us has been taken away (1 Corinthians 15:55).

7. HEAVEN

The Bible tells us many things about heaven.

- It is a place where everything is new (Revelation 21:5).
- It is a big, beautiful, safe place that is being prepared for those who are saved by Christ (John 14:1-4).
- It is a place where we will be given new, glorious bodies (Philippians 3:20)!
- It is a place without sin, crying, pain or death (Revelation 21:4).
- It is a place where everyone is invited to come (Revelation 22:17).
- It is a place where people can live with God forever (Revelation 21:3).
- It is a place where we will see God's face (Revelation 22:4)!

Heaven is a place prepared for prepared people. It is a perfect place for people made perfect through our Lord Jesus Christ!

8. ETERNAL LIFE

Some people think that there are many ways to heaven and that other religions are just as true as Christianity. However, Jesus Christ is the only religious leader who could do miracles, who fulfilled ancient prophecy, who was without sin, who had a miraculous birth, and who was raised from the dead. Think about it—if you were lost and needed to find the right way, would you ask directions from a living person or a corpse?

Because Jesus conquered death and is forever alive, we can know for sure that He, and He alone, is the way to heaven!

9. FALLEN WORLD

Lamentations 3:33 tells us that God “does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.” Instead, God tells us this in Jeremiah 29:11: “‘I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” God hated suffering and evil so much that He did the following important things:

1. He entered our world as a man (Jesus) and experienced suffering. Because of this, we can be sure that God knows exactly what we are going through and what it feels like to suffer (Philippians 2:6-8, Isaiah 53:2-5).
2. He sent His Son, Jesus, to conquer evil and death (Hebrews 2:14-15).
3. He provided a way to heaven (through the sacrifice of Jesus) where there will be no more suffering, sin, evil or death (Revelation 7:13-17; 21:1-5).
4. He sent Jesus to teach us to avoid evil and to always help those who are suffering (Matthew 25:34-40).

10. MIRACLES

Jesus’ miracles show that he had power over nature (Mark 4:39), evil (Mark 1:23-28), demons (Luke 8:33), sickness (Luke 14:1-4), and even death (John 11:38-44)! The apostle John wrote, “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in this name” (John 20:30-31). John tells us that Jesus’ miracles pointed (like signs) to His power.

Miracle

“I am” statement

Jesus healed a blind man

“I am the bread of life” (John 6:35)

Jesus fed 5,000 people

“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5)

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead

“I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)

11. PRAYER

The Bible mentions prayer more than 850 times and reminds us that we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything. Jonah even prayed from inside a fish! When does the Bible say we should pray?

- We should pray when we are afraid (Psalm 34:4).
- We should pray when we are worried (Philippians 4:6).
- We should pray when we are in trouble (James 5:13).
- We should pray when we are sick (James 5:14).
- We should pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Someone once said, “The only time you find power before prayer is in the dictionary.” What do you think this means?

12. GOD’S WORD

Did you know that some of our “modern scientific discoveries” were in the Bible the whole time? For example, many ancient cultures believed that the world was flat and was held up by something. However, Isaiah 40:22 hints that the earth is round and Job 26:7 tells us, “God hung the earth on nothing.” The importance of washing our hands to prevent the spread of germs was not discovered until around 1865. However, God taught the Israelites to wash their hands and clothes in Numbers 19:11-16. In 1855, Matthew Fountain Maury (the father of oceanography) discovered that there were natural currents and paths in the ocean. Psalm 8:6-8 reveals the “paths of the seas” long before this discovery. These are more reasons to be sure that the Bible is God’s Word!

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)