



We Can Trust the New Testament

2

Key Theme

- The Bible is inspired by God.

Key Passages

- John 14:25–26, 16:13, 19:35, 20:31; 2 Peter 1:16

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify who Jesus promised He would send to help the apostles record Jesus's life.
- Explain why we can trust the authors of the New Testament.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will review the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Puzzle and reciting the verse to a friend or to the class.



Activity 1: We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes

Students will fill out the We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

The apostles were eyewitnesses to the things Jesus did. Jesus promised His apostles that He would send the Holy Spirit, the Helper, to bring to their remembrance what Jesus said and did. The things the apostles, and their friends, wrote were inspired by God through the Holy Spirit. What they wrote in the Bible is true.



Activity 2: True Testament Toss

Students will compete in teams by answering questions and tossing a beanbag onto the answers taped to the floor.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Puzzle for each student



WE CAN TRUST THE NEW TESTAMENT CLASS NOTES

- Print one We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes for each student
- We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Trinity Illustration from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Trinity Illustration



TRUE TESTAMENT TOSS

- Print one True Testament Toss Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print one set of 12 True Testament Toss Answer Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- True Testament Toss Questions
- 12 True Testament Toss Answer Cards
- Masking Tape
- Beanbags



Memory Verse

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

We recognize the New Testament to be the history of the coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah, His teaching and ministry, and the founding and building up of the Church through His apostles. It spans approximately 90 years, beginning shortly before Jesus's birth and ending with the book of Revelation, written while John was on the island of Patmos shortly before he died. But how do we know the New Testament is true? How do we know we can trust the testimony of what is written as God's Word?

First, we find that Jesus empowered the apostles through the Holy Spirit to recall, write, and interpret the life, words, and deeds of Jesus. Jesus said the Helper, the Holy Spirit, would come in His name and would teach His apostles all things and bring to their remembrance the things Jesus said to them (John 14:26). The apostles would receive special revelation and record that truth through the Holy Spirit who would guide them into all truth (John 16:13).

Second, we have it on the authority of the apostles that the words recorded for us are true. They recorded these truths as eyewitnesses. The apostles were ordained by Jesus to spread the message of the gospel, and we have the writings from them and their close associates. Peter verified this emphatically when he wrote that they were eyewitnesses of Jesus's majesty. This is further verified when Peter expressed that they heard the voice of God Himself acknowledged the beloved Son with whom He was well pleased (2 Peter 1:16–18).

The Apostle John also verified himself as an eyewitness to the events he wrote about: "This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true" (John 21:24).

Not all of the 27 books of the New Testament were written directly by one of the Twelve Apostles. For example, James, the brother of Jesus, wrote a letter to the church. Mark, who wrote the Gospel of Mark, is mentioned various times in the New Testament, so we know him to be an eyewitness. And the Apostle Peter reflected on Mark as his "son," indicating a close relationship and giving credibility to the words Mark wrote (1 Peter 5:13). Luke, writer of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, was not an apostle but a very close companion of the Apostle Paul and travelled with the other apostles (2 Timothy 4:11). It isn't certain who

wrote the book of Hebrews, but the writer verifies that what he spoke of had been confirmed by those who heard the Lord (Hebrews 2:3).

As the New Testament letters began to be gathered and read throughout the church, we find evidence that they were already being described as "Scripture," being included as part of the established Old Testament canon. The Apostle Peter made such a claim about Paul's writings in 2 Peter 3:15–16 when he put Paul's epistles in the same category as "the rest of the Scriptures."

A similar confirmation is seen when Paul, in his letter to Timothy, quoted from Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7, indicating that both statements are from the Scriptures (1 Timothy 5:18). Paul apparently considered Luke's writings to be on par with those of Moses! And we should, too. As the Holy Spirit directed these various writers, they recorded these truths to produce the inspired original manuscripts of the New Testament (2 Peter 1:19–21). These writings were then spread throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa as copies were transferred from local church to local church. The collection of writings was acknowledged by Christians and used as a source of teaching by the early leaders—including those we call the Church Fathers. Early in the first and second centuries, there was a small degree of disagreement about which letters and books should be included in the canon—the official list of the inspired texts—but these differences were discussed and resolved as the true writings from the Holy Spirit were made clear and acknowledged.

Now God's Word is closed. We can be confident that the 27 books of the New Testament canon combined with the 39 books of the Old Testament is the completed Word of God. God clearly warns us that we are NOT to add to His Word or take away from what is written (Revelation 22:18–19). This warning from almighty God sits as a capstone at the end of the New Testament—a stone we dare not move.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The Christian faith is not a blind faith—we have much evidence to support the things that we believe. Although we do not have the original manuscripts (the documents actually penned by the authors) of the New Testament, we do have many documents that were copied from those originals. The originals were written at the direction of the Holy Spirit, and we refer to them

as the original inspired manuscripts or autographs. But if all we have today are copies of copies of copies, wouldn't there be a few copying mistakes?

Yes, but it turns out having lots of copies is a good thing. We have so many copies of the New Testament letters and Gospels that we can compare them to one another and come to an understanding of where the errors were made during the copying and what the originals said. Most of the errors, which are called variants, are very easy to correct or are insignificant. For example, sometimes words or phrases got switched (e.g., Christ Jesus vs. Jesus Christ) or there are variant spellings (e.g., similar to the variation in the English spelling of honor and honour). Some areas are more difficult to deal with, but we have literally thousands of documents to help us understand what the original manuscripts written in Greek said. This is called textual criticism and gives us great confidence in the Bible we already trust by faith.

Consider this simplistic example of how textual criticism works: If we found manuscripts A, B, and C, could we determine what the original statement was?

A: Justin took his friends to the beach.

B: Justine took his friends to the beach.

C: Justin took his friends to the sea.

The variants can be examined: beach or sea; Justin or Justine. Since all three include "his," it seems Justin is the correct reading over Justine. Since there are two instances of beach, sea seems to be the error, but it really doesn't change the meaning.

The manuscript copies were made by handwriting on animal skins, papyrus, and various forms of paper developed through the centuries. That means that the originals, written in the same way, would have deteriorated. And the many manuscripts we have are in various states of decay, with only a few being complete. Later, the invention of the printing press allowed the Bible, in its various forms, to be copied much more quickly and with fewer errors, but these are not considered manuscripts since they were not written by hand. There are over 5,800 partial or complete manuscripts in the original Greek language, not to mention around 10,000 in Latin and 9,000 in various languages like Coptic, Armenian, and Syriac.

On top of all this, there are regularly new finds that help us understand the history of the Bible we hold in our hands. One fascinating area of new discovery came from Egypt. Many masks and other burial items made of papyrus and linen bonded together with plas-

ter (similar to papier-mâché), called cartonnage, have been found. These were decorated in various ways, but they often used old scraps of papyrus that had writing on them. Recently, portions of the Bible have been found by carefully dissolving and separating the sheets in these masks. And these are some of the oldest manuscripts known!

The fact of the matter is, the historicity of the Bible is obvious to anyone willing to fairly investigate it. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, the truth can transform the lives of people who put their faith in Christ. The Bible is uniquely self-consistent and extraordinarily authentic. It has been confirmed countless times by archaeology and other sciences. It possesses divine insight into the nature of the universe and has made correct predictions about distant future events with perfect accuracy. When Christians read the Bible, they cannot help but recognize the voice of their Creator. The Bible claims to be the Word of God, and it demonstrates this claim by making knowledge possible. It is the standard of standards. And we can trust it and the life-giving message of the gospel it contains.

[Note to teacher: When talking about dates around the turn of the first century, many people become confused, thinking the first century would be the period from 100–200, when this is actually the second century. Try to use phrases like "just 50 years after Jesus died" or "within a few years from when the Apostle John died" to help clarify these dates, especially for younger students.]



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, your Word is precious to me. I am confident it is true. The passages I read for this lesson reassure me of the truth of the New Testament. They give me detailed reasons for my faith in your Word that I can pass on to my students, family, and friends that may have doubts. Forgive me for entertaining any doubts when I've heard reports about other books outside the canon of Scripture that cast a shadow on the truth of your Word. To you be all glory, omniscient Lord! Thank you for revealing yourself to us through your true Word and for giving us minds to grow in our knowledge of you.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Puzzle using the puzzle piece shapes as clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided a worksheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes

MATERIALS

- We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes for each student
- We Can Trust the New Testament Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll do it together when I tell you.

After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we read the Bible and complete the class notes today, we will get answers to the question, "How do we know we can trust the New Testament?"



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus had arrived. For those who had eyes to see and ears to hear, the prophecies of old were being fulfilled. The faithful believers, like Simeon, rejoiced at the coming of the Messiah. It had been 400 years since God's last prophet, Malachi, had spoken. Now the people of God could rejoice at Jesus's coming. But how can we be sure Jesus was

John 14:25–26

the one prophesied about in the Old Testament? Can we trust the New Testament to be true and accurate? Let's try to answer that question today.

Turn in your Bibles to the book of John. John is in the New Testament. John was one of Jesus's very closest friends. We are going to read a few verses in John. We'll start at John 14:25–26.

? Will someone read that please? *Assign a reader.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Good job. Now let's try to answer a few questions about those verses, so we can see what God is saying to us.

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Observe the Text

? OK. In John 14:25 someone is speaking; who is that? You may want to look back to John 14:23 for a hint. *Jesus.*

That's right. Jesus was speaking to His disciples. He knew that He would soon be killed and leave them. He was giving them some final words of wisdom.

? In John 14:26 Jesus talked about someone who would come after He died. Who was that? *The Helper, the Holy Spirit.*

? Yes. The Holy Spirit would come. And who would send the Holy Spirit? *John 14:26. The Father.*

? The Father would send the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Helper. Look at #1 on your class notes. Will someone read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Holy Spirit.*

? And go to #2 on your class notes. Someone read that for us. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Father.*

? Now back to your Bibles. What would the Holy Spirit do? It is in John 14:26. *Teach them all things. Bring to their remembrance all Jesus was saying.*

? That's right! Now look at #3 on your class notes. Who can read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Jesus.*

Let's move on. Go to John 16:13. These are still the words of Jesus to His apostles. Someone read that for us. *Assign a reader. John 16:13.*

? Who is this verse about? *The Spirit of truth.*

Yes. This verse is telling us something about the Spirit of truth. This is the same Spirit—the Holy Spirit—that Jesus was talking about in John 14:26, the verse we just read.

? What would this Spirit of truth do? There are a couple of things mentioned. What is the first thing? *He would guide them into truth.*

? And there is something else mentioned at the end of the verse, something the Spirit would do for the apostles. What is that? *He would tell them things to come.*

John 16:13

Jesus told His apostles that after He was gone, the Holy Spirit would come. And the Spirit would guide them in truth. He would also tell them of things to come. Jesus went on to say that the Spirit would not speak on His own authority, but He would speak what Jesus had spoken.

- ? Let's go back to the class notes. Who can read #4 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Guide.*
- ? And #5? Someone read that. How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Tell.*
- ? When we start talking about the Holy Spirit, people sometimes get confused and wonder, "Who is He?" Well, we have talked many times about the Trinity. What does that word refer to? What does it mean? *Allow discussion.*

The Trinity refers to God—and that there are three Persons in the one true God!

- ? **Who are the three persons?** *Refer to the Trinity Illustration from the Resource DVD-ROM. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

Refer to Trinity Illustration. You have this image on your class notes. Someone read around the outside of this illustration. Begin with "The Father." *Assign a reader.*

Well we know who the three Persons in the Trinity are NOT! Right? The Father is NOT the Son. The Son is NOT the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is NOT the Father.

- ? But who ARE these Persons? Someone read the inside portion of the illustration. Again begin with "The Father." *Assign a reader.*

This tells us that The Father IS God. And the Son IS God. And the Holy Spirit IS God. The Bible tells us that there is only ONE God, but there are three Persons in the one God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- ? What is this called? When we talk about three Persons in one God? *The Trinity.*

- ? We read John 14:26 earlier. The beginning of that verse is on your class notes. It speaks of all three Persons of the Trinity. Will someone read that please? *Assign a reader.*

Jesus said that the Helper, the Holy Spirit (who is God), would come. The Father (who IS God) would send Him. And the Holy Spirit would come in Jesus's (who IS God) name. This is the Trinity. Three Persons in one God. Each Person in the Trinity is a unique and different Person. And yet we know that these three Persons in the Trinity make up the ONE God!

- ? Does this seem hard to understand? *Yes!*

It is very difficult to understand. And that is because we are just people. God understands this perfectly. And the Trinity has existed forever . . . because God has existed forever. We know it is true because we read about it in God's Word. And we know that God cannot lie!

- ? Let's review. Someone read #6 on your class notes and look at the Trinity diagram. How will you complete that statement? *Assign a reader. Not. Not. Not.*
- ? And someone read #7? What is the answer there? *Assign a reader. God. God. God.*

Discover the Truth

So, God the Son, Jesus, told His apostles that after He was gone—after He died and rose from the dead—God the Father would send a helper to them. This Helper is God the Holy Spirit. The Helper would teach the apostles all things and help them remember what Jesus taught them and what happened. This Helper was called the Spirit of Truth. And the Spirit of Truth would guide the writers of the New Testament in all truth. God the Holy Spirit would inspire the writers to record all the truth God wanted them to record. God doesn't make mistakes. We know the New Testament is true! Jesus Himself promised the apostles that the Father would send the Spirit of Truth to help them write.

- ? Our God is an amazing God! We can trust what He has written in His Word because He is all-knowing! Which attribute tells us God is all-knowing? *Omniscient.*

- ? Yes. He is all-knowing. And He is also wise beyond what we could ever imagine. When I say He is wise what do I mean? *Allow discussion. Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. He does everything perfectly without mistakes.*

We can trust that God is wise. And that means that He has directed the writing of the Bible perfectly and without mistakes. We can trust the New Testament. It was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit!



OMNISCIENT

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

WISE

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

READ THE WORD

Not only did the Holy Spirit inspire men to write it, but it was written by Jesus's followers—His apostles. So, what does that mean? Why should that matter? Well, we are going to read from the book of John. The book of John was written by the Apostle John. John lived at the same time as Jesus. John was a very close friend of Jesus. He traveled with Jesus, prayed with Jesus, learned from Jesus, and he watched as Jesus died on the Cross.

Turn to John 19:35. This is what John said about the Word he had written. *Assign a reader. John 19:35.*

John 19:35

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? First, who was John writing about? Who is the book of John about? *Jesus.*
Yes. This is John's testimony about Jesus.
- ? What is a testimony? Can you tell me? *Allow discussion.*

Testimony is just another word for a statement. When someone gives a “testimony” he is telling others what happened to him—what he saw. It is a firsthand or eyewitness account of what happened.

- ? In this verse, what does John tell us about the testimony He wrote about Jesus? *John 19:35. His testimony is true.*

Yes, John said that all he had written was true, and that he had written it so that all who would read it would believe.

- ? Go back now to your class notes. Someone read #8 for us. How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Testimony.*

John’s testimony was true. He wanted others to believe what he was writing. Why did John want others to believe? Well, we can find out. Turn to John 20:31. Someone read that. *John 20:31. Assign a reader.*

- ? What did John want others to believe? *That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

- ? And why was that so important to John? What would believing in Christ give to the believers? *John 20:31. Life in His name.*

Exactly! John wanted people to believe that Jesus is the Christ. John knew that everyone who believed in Jesus and trusted in His name would have life in His name. That is eternal life, forgiveness of sins—the hope of heaven and being in the presence of God forever! That is why John wrote!

- ? Can someone read #9 on your class notes? How would you answer that? Will someone read it for us? *Assign a reader. Son of God.*

John wanted to be sure that his readers knew that he walked with Jesus. He was an eyewitness to Jesus’s life. He learned from Jesus. And what he wrote about Jesus was true. Jesus is the Son of God!

And just to be sure we really understand what God wants us to understand, let’s turn to the book of Second Peter. It is toward the back of the Bible. Peter was another very close friend of Jesus. Peter wrote this book of the Bible. We are going to read 2 Peter 1:16. *Choose students to read the verses.*

- ? OK. Peter said that he did not follow cunningly devised fables when he spoke and wrote about Jesus. What does this mean? What’s a fable? *Allow discussion.*

A fable is a made-up story. It would be something that wasn’t true. Peter said the same thing that John said, only in a different way. What he wrote was true! It wasn’t made-up!

- ? Who did Peter make known to his readers? Who was he writing about? *The Lord Jesus Christ.*

That’s right. He was writing about Jesus. And we can’t forget that he was a very good friend of Jesus. He knew Jesus. And God’s Word tells us that what he wrote about Jesus is true!

Testimony:
a firsthand
account of what
happened.

John 20:31

2 Peter 1:16

- ? What did Peter say about himself? What did he call himself? *An eyewitness.*
Yes! He was an eyewitness just like the Apostle John. He lived with Jesus. This was his testimony! This is what happened to him!
- ? Someone read #10 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Assign a reader. Eyewitnesses.*
- ? The apostles were eyewitnesses. What does that mean? *Allow discussion.*
It means that they were there. They saw it. They heard what Jesus said. And they learned from Jesus. What they wrote is true.

Discover the Truth

We can trust the New Testament writings about Jesus. They are true! Eyewitnesses, or friends of eyewitnesses, wrote the accounts! These men weren't retelling fables or stories they had heard from someone else. They walked and talked and ate and slept and prayed and traveled with Jesus. They were Jesus's friends. What they wrote is true! We can believe every word of it.



True Testament Toss

MATERIALS

- True Testament Toss Questions
- True Testament Toss Answer Cards (printed on cardstock)
- Masking tape
- 2–3 beanbags

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into 2–3 teams. Tape the True Testament Toss Answer Cards on the floor. Tape a line on the floor at an appropriate distance from the answers. As you read the questions from the True Testament Toss Teacher Guide, students will toss the beanbags onto or close to the correct answer. The team that gets the beanbag closest to the correct answer will get a point.

We read several passages of Scripture in this lesson. We're going to play a fun game to see how much you remember. As I read the question, one person from each team will toss a beanbag as close as he can to the right answer. Whoever is closest to the

correct answer gets a point for his team. Take turns throwing, and don't give the correct answer away!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Great job everyone! We have a winning team.

- ? So, how can we know the New Testament is true? *Some writers were eyewitnesses to Jesus and some were friends of the apostles. The Holy Spirit helped them remember what Jesus said, so they could write it all down.*

In this life people will let you down with their words. People lie and twist the truth. But not God. God's Word is true. He used the Holy Spirit and eyewitnesses to write down the New Testament Scriptures for us. Our all-knowing, all-powerful God keeps His Word for us to study and apply to our lives. Man's words are sometimes untrue, but we can be sure that God's Word is truth.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Before Jesus died, He promised the Father would send the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who would teach the apostles. The Spirit of Truth—which is another name for the Holy Spirit—guided the writers of the New Testament into all truth. The Holy Spirit is God, and God never makes mistakes, so we can be sure the New Testament is true! We can trust it because the Spirit of Truth helped the apostles remember what happened and inspired the writers.

And we can trust the authors of the New Testament. They were either eyewitnesses to Jesus's life or close friends of the apostles. They testified that the words they wrote were true. The apostles lived with Jesus and talked with Him. They wrote down what they had personally experienced—their testimony. So we can be confident the events they wrote down for us are true.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

You might have heard people say the Bible can't be believed and that Jesus wasn't real. Some have said we can't "prove" that Jesus was God or that He did everything the Bible says He did. Others think the New Testament is just a bunch of made-up fables, because there is no evidence that the events in it really happened.

But we do have proof of sorts. There are things called manuscripts. Manuscripts are hand-written copies of the books and writings from the New Testament. The authors of the New Testament (like John and Peter, whom we talked about today) wrote their testimony about Jesus on animal skins, papyrus, or other kinds of paper. It's true that we don't have their original manuscripts anymore. But that's okay. What we have are copies of the original manuscripts. And even though all of these copies aren't always identical, there are enough copies that the "experts" can compare the manuscripts and figure out what the original writers (like John and Peter) wanted to say.

There are thousands of these ancient manuscripts from the Bible. They are in different languages and found in different countries. And that shows us that the people were not only hearing about Jesus and the apostles but were writing down what they heard and sharing the message of the truth with others.

➤ You may want to go online and look for "biblical manuscript cartonnage" and "biblical manuscripts." There are images you could print to show your class.

Did you know that more manuscripts containing parts of the Bible are discovered all the time? Yes. In fact, an exciting new discovery happened recently in Egypt. The ancient Egyptians were into fancy masks. These masks were made of papyrus and linen bonded together with plaster, kind of like papier-mâché—the material piñatas are made of. The layered material is called *cartonnage*. Just like today when we use old newspaper scraps with writing on it to make something out of papier-mâché, the pieces of papyrus used to make these old Egyptian masks often had writing on them. Recently, more of these masks were found. The scientists working with these kinds of Egyptian masks sometimes carefully pull the layers apart to see what is written on the papyrus. They did that this time. And it was discovered that the papyrus that the masks were made from had parts of the Bible written on them! These manuscripts were some of the oldest ever found!

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

You know, God says that the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament—will stand forever. It cannot be destroyed. You can trust it. You can be sure God’s Word is true. The New Testament tells us the truth about Jesus Christ—His life, death, and Resurrection. It reveals the truth about the hope of eternity with God that we have through forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness and hope are freely given to all who will repent of their sins, turn to Jesus, and believe in Him.



MEMORY VERSE

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because we can always trust His Word to be true!
- Thank God for the faithful eyewitnesses who wrote the Bible and for the Holy Spirit who brought to their remembrance just what Jesus said.
- Ask God to help us to be more faithful to read and obey God’s Word.