

KIDMUNITY | God's Word, My Life

Lesson 03: God's True Story

Large Group Script

Bottom Line:

The Bible tells God's story, and it can be trusted.

Memory Verse:

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8

Supplies Needed

- Bible (to hold up)
- Real \$20 bill
- Counterfeit/fake \$20 bill (prop/play money that looks realistic)
- Black light (to reveal the security thread)
- Small scroll or rolled paper tied with ribbon (to represent ancient manuscripts)
- Archaeological artifact photo printouts (Jericho walls, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.)
- List of prophecies and their fulfillments (Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, crucifixion, etc.)

Welcome & Hook: Counterfeit or Real?

Hold up two \$20 bills (one real, one fake).

Ask: *"Which one is real? Which one is fake? How can you tell?"*

Invite a few kids up to help inspect. Let them point out details.

"When it comes to money, people have tried to make fake copies for years. However, the U.S. Treasury produces genuine bills with special features, allowing you to verify their authenticity. Here are some ways you can tell if a \$20 bill is real:"

- **Watermark** – Hold it up to the light. You'll see a faint portrait of Andrew Jackson on the right side.
- **Color-Shifting Ink** – Tilt the bill. The number in the corner changes color from copper to green.
- **Security Thread** – A thin vertical strip is embedded in the bill. Under black light, it glows green.
- **Raised Printing** – Run your fingers across the shoulders of Andrew Jackson – you can feel the texture.

- **Microprinting** – Tiny words (like “USA TWENTY”) are printed around the portrait and borders.

After pointing these out, hold both bills side-by-side.

Say: *“You don’t just believe money is real because someone tells you. You check the marks of authenticity.”*

In the same way, people sometimes wonder if the Bible is real – or if it’s just a made-up story. Today, we’re going to look at the ‘marks of authenticity’ that show the Bible is God’s true story, and that we can trust it.

How the Bible Came to Us

Before we dig into why the Bible is true, let’s talk about how it even got to us.

- The Bible wasn’t originally one big book. It’s made up of **66 different books** – written over many centuries.
- We don’t have the original scrolls, because they were written on materials like papyrus and parchment that didn’t last forever.
- Instead, God’s Word was copied by hand. Scribes carefully wrote down copies so more people could read it.
- Sometimes churches or synagogues would keep the copy and send the original, or keep the original and send the copy. Over time, thousands of copies spread all around the ancient world.
- Today, we have **thousands of whole copies or fragments** of every book in the Bible.
- Scholars compare the oldest manuscripts (closest to the originals) and line them up side-by-side to check for errors or differences.
- This science (called **textual criticism**) helps us know that the Bible we hold today is over **99% accurate** to the original writings.

So when people ask, “Hasn’t the Bible changed over time?” the answer is no. God has preserved His Word, and we can trust what it says.

Real People, Real Places

We've seen that the Bible we have today is accurate to what was originally written. But here's another important question: How do we know what was *written down* wasn't just made up?

- Much of the Bible is written like a history book, not a fairy tale or a myth.
- It talks about real people, living in real places, during real times.
- It names cities, kings, rivers, battles, rulers – things that can be fact-checked.
- That means the Bible invites investigation. You can look at history and archaeology to see if these things line up.

When we read the Bible, we're not stepping into a fantasy world – we're stepping into real history with real people in real places. And that's something we can actually check.

How We Know It's True

Here are a few powerful reasons we can trust the Bible:

1. Textual Preservation

- Scientists who study ancient documents (called “textual critics”) compare thousands of old copies to make sure we know what the originals said.
- Other famous writings (like Plato or Caesar) only have a handful of copies, written hundreds of years after the original.
- The New Testament? Almost 6,000 Greek manuscripts, plus thousands more in other languages – some written within just decades of the originals!
- That means what you hold in your hands today is over **99% accurate** to what was first written.

2. Archaeological Evidence

- Archaeologists keep uncovering things the Bible talked about.
- Example: The **Pool of Bethesda** (where Jesus healed a paralyzed man in John 5) was once thought to be made up – until it was discovered in the 1800s.
- The **Tel Dan Inscription** proves King David really lived and ruled.

- The **Dead Sea Scrolls**, discovered in 1947, gave us Old Testament manuscripts written hundreds of years before Jesus — and they match the Bible we read today.
- These discoveries show the Bible isn't a fairy tale — it matches real history.

3. **Fulfilled Prophecy**

- The Old Testament made hundreds of predictions about the coming Messiah.
- Example: Micah said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) — 700 years before Jesus was born there.
- David and Zechariah described crucifixion centuries before Romans even invented it (Psalm 22; Zech. 12:10).
- Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies — the odds of even 8 of those happening by chance are 1 in 100 quadrillion. God made promises, and He kept them.

4. **Enduring Word**

- Kingdoms rise and fall, cultures change, but God's Word has stood firm through thousands of years.
- Just like Isaiah 40:8 says: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

Why It Matters

So what does all of this mean for us?

- If the Bible is reliable, then its message can be trusted.
- God's promises aren't empty words — they are true and proven.
- We can live with confidence, knowing that God's Word is not changing with the times.
- The Bible is not only trustworthy in history — it is alive and relevant for us today.

Wrap-Up & Challenge

The Bible isn't just a story from the past — it's God's true story, proven and preserved for you today.

- Recite Isaiah 40:8 together.
- Takeaway: “The Bible tells God’s story, and it can be trusted.”
- Challenge: “This week, share one reason why you trust the Bible with a friend or family member. God’s Word endures forever – let’s build our lives on it.”