

5/6 re:form

August 29, 2021

Bible Unit: Lesson 2

Is the Bible true?

LEADER PREP

WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS?

During the Enlightenment (17th–18th centuries), we entered the age of empirical truth. In other words, truth was measured by a statement's accuracy in relation to facts—what really happened. This matters a lot in a court of law, a scientific laboratory, or a newspaper article. They all try to get at empirical truth. Empirical truth is helpful, but it does not give the full picture. In the past, many who told and wrote the stories that defined cultures were less interested in empirical truth than they were in capturing the entire scope and feel of a narrative—the whole story. The way they thought of truth versus how we do can be compared to the difference between a hand-painted canvas and a photograph: while a portrait relies upon the painter to add lines and shading that tell a fuller story about the subject—to create a rendering that is shaped by the artist's level of skill and what he or she feels is important to emphasize or de-emphasize—a photograph captures a literal moment in time that really happened. Rather than depending primarily on the factual accuracy of eyewitness accounts (dubious at best) or scientific proofs, the truth of the Bible is corroborated by our experience of its truth, and by the longstanding testimony of the church that God's Spirit is active in the world—just as the Bible portrays it.

WHERE ARE KIDS AT?

- Kids are trying to make sense of the world around them. They're wrestling with perception vs. reality in social, educational, and political structures.
- Kids are constantly paying attention to how people in authority function. Adolescents are in varying stages of moving from concrete to abstract thinking. Where kids are in this transition will impact their ability to distinguish between positive and negative uses of authority.

WHERE IS THIS GOING?

Kids will explore various understandings of truth and their relationship to the Bible.

NEW WORDS

- Truth [troot] a statement based in fact or reality
- Truth [troot] the eternal wisdom of God which the Bible helps us understand

LESSON GUIDE

Encourage kids to settle in quickly because time is short. All kids must wear a mask. Extra masks are available. Encourage kids to leave space between each other if they do not live in the same household. They can spread out. May need to pull some of the cubes for extra seating or some may need to sit on the floor. If you run out of time for Highs & Lows Pray & Go, offer a quick blessing over the kids.

OPENER (5 minutes)

- Ask kids to find one partner near them. Give each pair a note card and pen.
- Ask the pairs to share their favorite mysteries. These mysteries might come from books, movies, or television shows.
- Ask them to make a list on their notecard of all the steps that take place to solve a mystery.

VIDEO (5 minutes)

Watch the re:form video "Is the Bible true?"

UNPACK (15 minutes)

This time is chance for the kids to reflect, unpack and share conversation about what you have seen and heard. Questions are encouraged. Answers may not always be clear. It's okay to say you don't know. Also, feel free to bring questions to Robin or the pastors and we will respond by the following week. Use these questions to guide conversation. You do not need to ask all of them or in this exact order.

- What surprised you in the video?
- What do you think about truth found in the Bible?
- Which people, events, or stories do you think are not factually accurate?
- How can the Bible be true if it contains inaccurate information?
- What do you think is the most important event in the Bible? Would you feel differently if that event didn't happen in the exact same way the Bible says?
- So, is the Bible true?

HIGHS & LOWS, PRAY & GO (5 minutes)

Depending on the number of kids you can do the highs and lows as one big group or in smaller groups of 3-4. If you share in smaller groups come back together as one group to pray.

- Go around the circle and share one high and one low from the previous week (quick, popcorn style – no lengthy stories).
- As one large group, have the adult leader pray for each other's highs and lows and what you discovered together in Re:form.
- Return to worship.