

Ninth Grade- What is the Bible?

In today's post-modern culture, truth is a highly debated idea. What is truth? Is there a universal truth? How can we know truth? The philosophies of post-modernism are more pervasive than we realize, and affect the way we learn and trust information more than we are aware. In this age of shifting sand, it is more important than ever that we talk about Scripture. Scripture communicates to us crucial truths about God, life, and ourselves. Students can't just be told that Scripture is good for them, we need to teach them to understand and experience that goodness for themselves! Because when all of life gives way, we all need a north star to guide ourselves by. Scripture is that guiding, foundational truth for the believer. Today we want to talk more about what the Bible is as we begin our larger study of Scripture.

Introducing the Topic

- Have you ever heard someone say, "your truth is your truth, my truth is my truth"? What do you think about that phrase? What do you think it means?

- What are some of the most important truths in your life? How do you know they're true?

- Do you believe the Bible is 100% true? Why or why not?

- Do you think the Bible is a good place to go for truth and guidance? Why or why not?

- If someone asked you to define the Bible for them, what would you say?

- Do you think the Bible is the ONLY way to learn truth? What are some other ways you think we can learn truth?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

- Read Romans 1:19-21 together.
 - What stuck out to you?

 - What do you think this passage is trying to say?

 - Where does this passage say we can learn about God?

 - Have you ever heard the phrase "general revelation"? What do you think it means?

- Explain that general revelation is one of two ways God chooses to reveal Himself to us. General revelation refers to general truths about God that can be observed in creation.

-What are some things about God you can observe in creation?

-Explain that the second way God chooses to reveal Himself to us is in “specific revelation”. Specific revelation is how God has chosen to reveal Himself to us by supernatural means. The two main ways God has specifically revealed Himself is by Scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ.

-Read: 2 Timothy 3:15-16

-What stuck out to you?

-What do you think this passage is saying?

-What is Scripture able to “make us wise to”?

-Do you think we NEED Scripture for salvation? Why or why not?

-Explain: Scripture teaches that without God’s specific revelation of Himself recorded in Scripture, we would not have what we need for salvation. What do you think Scripture contains that we need so desperately?

-Read John 14:6 together.

-What stuck out to you?

-What do you think this passage is saying?

-What is essential to salvation? *(Answer: Jesus)*

-Having read this verse, why do you think the specific revelation of Scripture is key to salvation? *(Because Scripture tells the story of Jesus)*

Practical Application

-Having read these verses and talked about these ideas, let's come up with a working definition of what Scripture is together. *(As you discuss with your group, make sure you hit these key points in your definition, that Scripture is God’s specific revelation of Himself to us, and that Scripture tells the story of Jesus which is essential to salvation.)*

-When you’re looking for truth, for wisdom on what to do or how to handle something, is Scripture where you turn, why or why not?

-What’s standing in the way of you relying on Scripture more? *(Take time to talk through their struggles, and work together to come up with ways to spend more time in Scripture)*