

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

I. Introduction

[1] Write down a couple of statements that express your personal feelings about the Bible. Do you trust it?

[2] How consistently do you consult it for direction and advice?

[3] Do you have any questions that trouble you about its validity?

II. Does Anybody Doubt the Bible's Trustworthiness?

[4] How would you respond to someone who claims the Bible has scientific and/or historical inaccuracies?

[5] How would you respond to someone who says it is outdated and irrelevant to today's culture?

III. The Bible Claims It Is Trustworthy.

[6] Using this paragraph and the next, compare 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. List two ways their messages are similar and two ways they are different.

[7] Summarize how you would explain what this section teaches to a 12-year-old child.

[8] If you were talking to a person who doesn't believe the Bible's claims, which of these examples would you most likely use? Why?

[9] The second point in this paragraph claims that Jesus believed in characters like Adam and Eve, Noah, and Jonah. Why do you think this is used as evidence that the Bible is trustworthy?

IV. The Bible's Unity and Preservation

[10] How would you answer the claim that the Bible is full of contradictions?

[11] How strongly do you think this evidence supports the Bible's claim to be trustworthy? Why?

[12] Were you surprised to learn that we have no original manuscript of a Bible book and that our current translations are all made from copies?

[13] How does that fact influence your confidence in the Bibles we read today?

V. The Old Testament Text

[14] Who were the Masoretes?

[15] What illustration was given here about how rigorously they checked the accuracy of their copies?

[16] Does this explanation strengthen or weaken your confidence that your Bible says the same thing the original manuscript said?

[17] What contribution do the Dead Sea Scrolls make to biblical studies?

VI. The New Testament Text

[18] Although there are minor copyist discrepancies between texts, what claim would a New Testament textual scholar make for the Bible you read today?

[19] Summarize what this paragraph is saying about the New Testament text in a single sentence.

[20] In your mind, what difference does it make if the date of a copy is closer to the time the original text was written?

[21] In a few sentences, explain to someone else how the number of New Testament manuscripts and their dates should give us more confidence that our Bibles are accurate.

VII. The Bible's Prophetic Accuracy

[22] What, according to Deuteronomy 18, was proof that a prophet's message was genuinely from God?

[23] Of the illustrations listed for Jesus' fulfilled prophecies, which ones could He not have intentionally made happen?

[24] Why is that important?

[25] Are you familiar with any other Old Testament prophecies that have already been fulfilled?

VIII. The Bible's Powerful Impact

[26] Name a few charities or societal changes in your region that were inspired by the Bible's teachings.

[27] Can you name some ways the Bible has had an impact on your own life and family?

[28] Do you know of stories about friends or neighbors whose life has been impacted by the gospel?

[29] List two reasons why some people do not trust the Bible.

[30] Review the lesson and see if you can explain three reasons why people do trust the Bible

[31] Describe your own reasons for trusting and/or not trusting the Bible in a way that a high school student would understand.

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Imagine for a few moments how our world, your country, your city, and your home would be different if there were no Bible truth influencing it. Think about the country or culture you live in or a culture you have been exposed to or read about that has rejected the Bible and its teachings. How are those cultures different from the places where the Bible has had an influence? How strongly does the Bible influence your day-to-day life?