

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: SUNDAY SCHOOL KIT

SESSION 3 – MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

1. Does the copying of the biblical manuscripts challenge your view of how the Bible came to us?
2. What is textual criticism and why is it a helpful part of biblical studies?
3. Does the discussion of textual variants in the manuscripts challenge or strengthen your confidence in the Bible? Why?
4. What would you say to someone who says that the wording of the Bible can't be trusted?

WORTH NOTING

Though we accept the claims of the Bible on faith, our faith is not blind or purely theoretical (1 Cor. 15:3-6, 1 Pet. 1:16). Being familiar with the manuscript evidence can help us understand the arguments of skeptics who doubt that the wording of the Bible can be trusted. But we must remember in our conversations with non-Christians that evidence is not enough to convert a soul (Matt. 16:17, John. 3:19, 1 Cor. 2:14), but it can be a tool that the Lord uses to show the weaknesses of worldly thinking and hopefully enable someone to see their own unwillingness to listen to the facts. In our evangelism, we should be careful not to neglect the Word of God because it is the ultimate source of revelation (Heb. 4:12).

[additional questions]

- + How can we be more mindful of how we speak to other people about the truth of the Bible?
- + Discuss James 1:19-27. How can this passage help guide our evangelism and defense of the Bible?

Other passages to consider: Num. 23:19, Prov. 30:5-6, Matt. 5:17-18, James 1:16-18