

# SKEPTICS

W A N T E D



Skeptics Wanted  
The Bible Told Me So  
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Discussion Notes  
The Crossing Church  
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## OPENING

We are continuing a new series this week called Skeptics Wanted. This series is for anyone who has ever had questions about God. Maybe you haven't been in an environment where you could ask questions about faith or maybe you have friends who are skeptical about Christianity and you just don't know what to say to them. Our goal for this series is building a foundation for our faith. And remember, we can't move away from something without moving toward something else.

## SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**Mark 13:31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**James 1:22 -25** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

**John 8:31-32** If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

**Philippians 1:6** ...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Question:** Why do you personally study the Bible? How much time each week do you spend studying the Bible? What would it take for you to increase it?

## OBSERVATION

This week we are tackling one of the things that people are most skeptical of: the Bible. People will say that the Bible is full of perfect people who had perfect lives – it's just not relevant today. When they say that, we know that they haven't read it! It is full of characters who are murderers, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, and rapists, to mention only a few.

**Question:** Which person in the Bible, other than Judas Iscariot, do you consider to be the most reprehensible? Why?

## APPLICATION

The Bible is not just a historical book. It is alive and active. God says His words will never pass away. It teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains. It is not written just so we can know more about God, it is written so we can know how to live our lives. Additionally, it isn't even a book – it is a collection of 66 books written in 3 languages by 40 authors over 1500 years. It tells one story that can be summed up in one

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is NIV unless otherwise noted.

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sentence: How God worked in history to restore His relationship with broken people like us. It is a story of redemption by which God promises that a Savior is coming - Jesus is the central character and salvation is the central theme. The New Testament tells us our Savior is coming back.

**Question:** What specifically have you learned about living your life from reading the Bible? What have you changed because of this knowledge?

But skeptics still have objections:

**Objection #1:** Isn't the Bible full of contradictions? Take the Gospels, for example. They have the same stories, but there are different details in each, so don't they contradict each other? Well, not when you realize that one person emphasizes certain details and is concentrating on one particular aspect of the story, and another author has a totally different perspective of the same story. But the basics are the same. If the stories were identical, we would think that the authors had gotten together to make them up!

**Question:** How do you answer skeptics who say the Bible doesn't apply to them today – that cultures of 2000-3000 years ago were very different and can't be compared to the temptations of today ?

**Objection #2:** What about the errors in the Bible? The scriptures are full of thousands of peoples and places, yet not once has there been any evidence found that proves what the Bible says about them is wrong.

**Question:** How is it possible that the Bible is inerrant? Does it mean that there are NO mistakes?

**Objection #3:** How can we know if the Bible is really true? Well, Christianity does not exist because the Bible says so – the Bible exists because of the Christian faith. Had Jesus not lived, been crucified, been buried and rose three days later, the New Testament would not exist. It documents what happened because it happened, and what it says is relevant for our lives.

**Question:** What is the purpose of the Old Testament? Why should you read it?

James tells us to not only hear the Word, but to do it. We will be blessed by obeying because it gives us freedom. It teaches us to forgive and forgiving makes us free. It tells us that sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage and purity brings freedom. It tells us that the truth will set us free and freedom comes from applying God's truth to our lives.

**Question:** Now that we know that obeying God brings freedom, which we all crave, what error of disobedience in your past do you wish had never happened? What have you done to repair its damage?

We are being challenged to read the Bible. Even starting with five minutes a day or one chapter a day will get us started. As we read, we will find verses that speak specifically to each of us and they often become our special scriptures to which we turn when times are difficult. They are promises from God and reminders of His presence. They tell us that God began a good work in us and He will carry it on to completion until the day of our Savior, Jesus.

**Question:** Which verses have you memorized? Under what circumstances have you shared them with your friends? In what ways do they bring you peace?

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, sometimes we have questions about the authenticity of the Bible or our friends question its relevance. Those of us who love Your Word realize that we are responsible for sharing it with others and explaining what we can according to our understanding. We are committed to continuing our study of the scriptures as Your Holy Spirit provides the words to speak to others. Above all, we are learning to be obedient to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.