

Stage 4, 5 or 6 Unit

BITES on the BIBLE with Darrell Bock



UNIT DESCRIPTION	This unit is a series of short clips with Darrell Bock, Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. Each clip answers a question about the nature of the Bible, its content and message. These can be used as discussion starters, triggers for further research, invitations to ask related questions, or conversations about the place of the Bible in a life of faith.	
CHRISTIAN INTEGRATION	The Bible as God’s Word is the final authority for the Christian life, containing the revelation of Jesus Christ and all that’s needed to make us ‘wise for salvation’(2 Timothy 3.15). Helping our students to understand the enduring relevance and credibility of Scripture is fundamental to their faith development. Encouraging an exploration of the origins, transmission and translation of the Bible is crucial, valuing the process of inquiry as essential for giving young people confidence in the claims and implications of Scripture.	
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What do we need to know to be confident in the historicity and authority of the Bible? – How do we explore the origins, transmission and translation of the Bible? – Who should we trust in terms of the historical credibility of the Bible? 	
TOPICS COVERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Bible? • What Genres do we find in the Bible? • How was the Bible put together? • How do we know the Bible hasn’t changed over time? • What about the differences in the copies of the Bible? • Isn’t the Bible full of contradictions? • Is the Bible relevant today? 	<p><i>These clips can be explored further through the CPX ‘Big Questions’ unit, which has a series of related learning activities in the “Can We Trust What the Bible Tells Us About Jesus?” lesson.</i></p>
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Students will be able to articulate the questions they have about the reliability, credibility and relevance of the Bible. – Students will be familiar with a Christian understanding of the Bible’s origins, preservation and transmission. – Students will evaluate Darrell Bock’s responses to common questions about the authority of the Bible. 	
SUCCESS CRITERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Students can describe a Christian response to common questions about the Bible’s authority. – Students can identify and express related questions which they may have about the nature of the Bible, its reliability and credibility. – Students can communicate an understanding of why thoughtful Christians are willing to reverence the Bible as an authoritative text. 	

		Resource	Register
Intro	<p>Introduce the topic of the Bible’s credibility with a ‘Human Barometer’ Group Activity – The goal is to get students talking about their perspective on, or experience of the Bible. Suggested statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible is too old to be trusted • The stories from the Bible are helpful for life • We can’t know if the things in the Bible actually happened • The Bible is an historical document • A lot of the Bible is confusing or irrelevant <p>Use some Bible verses to outline the claims that are made for the Bible by Christians, and discuss whether or not the Bible's claims about itself can be trusted. (e.g. Ps. 19.7-8, 1 Tim. 3.15-17, Dt. 6.1-9, Lk. 1.1-4, 1 Jn. 1.1-4, Ps. 119.9-16, Mt. 7.24-27, Is. 55.1-3 etc.)</p> <p>Explain that the class will be considering a range of questions about the credibility and usefulness of the Bible. Ask the students to consider the kinds of things we need to know about the Bible if we are going to base our lives on it.</p> <p>Invite students to anonymously contribute questions to either a literal Question Box or a digital alternative. Explain that the class will respond to a range of common questions and also deal with those submitted to the Question Box.</p>	Human Barometer Activity	
Clip 1	<p>Watch: ‘What is the Bible?’ <i>Brief overview of the type of document that the Bible is, including the different types of literature that are found in it.</i></p>	Clip: What is the Bible (2:19)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		
Clip 2	<p>Watch: ‘What genres do we find in the Bible?’ <i>Short description of the various literary genres that appear throughout the Bible.</i></p>	Clip: What genres do we find in the Bible? (2:40)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		

Clip 3	<p>Watch: 'How was the Bible put together?' <i>Some introductory thoughts around the development of the Canon.</i></p>	Clip: How was the Bible put together? (2:19)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		
Clip 4	<p>Watch: 'How do we know the Bible hasn't changed over time?' <i>Introducing the idea of documentary evidence and the challenge of the enduring relevance of the Biblical message.</i></p>	Clip: How do we know the Bible hasn't changed over time? (2:25)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		
Clip 5	<p>Watch: '2' <i>Concise introduction to the field of textual criticism, explaining the purpose and principles that guide scholars.</i></p>	Clip: What about the differences in the copies of the Bible? (2:11)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		
Clip 6	<p>Watch: 'Isn't the Bible full of contradictions?' <i>A response which considers the nature of primary sources and ways to approach apparent contradictions.</i></p>	Clip: Isn't the Bible full of contradictions? (3:44)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		
Clip 7	<p>Watch: 'Is the Bible relevant today?' <i>A short, sharp, conversation starter about the universal human experience, and the enduring relevance of the Bible.</i></p>	Clip: Is the Bible relevant today? (1:33)	
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you already know? • What is something you discovered? • What questions does this raise? 		