CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Why We Believe

Lesson 1: The Scripture Is Inspired

About This Lesson

It is important to have a strong foundation. As you guide the youth to trust God's Word, you are providing a firm foundation for their biblical worldview, which they can apply as they deal with culture, school, and family issues.

Key Takeaway: I can trust the Bible!

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

Teaching Outline:

I. THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

A. Inspiration of God – The Greek word is *theopneustos*, God + breathed = the Word is life!

2 Timothy 3:14–17 *But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, [15] and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

1. Be wise unto salvation.

   Psalm 14:1 *A fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'*

2. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith unto salvation.

B. The Bible is "God breathed."

2 Peter 1:19–21 *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;* [20] *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,* [21] *for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

C. The Word is a light that shines in a dark place. Use God's Word as the light that guides your path (Psalm 119:105).

D. Guidelines to Interpreting Scripture

1. Use scripture to interpret other scriptures.
2. Read in context. Study each scripture on a micro and macro level—zoom out and zoom in for better understanding.
3. Read the meaning out of the scripture. Don't read into the scripture what you want it to say.
4. Need two or three witnesses (other scriptures) to make a doctrine.
5. Look up when and to whom the scripture was written.
6. Take notice of how the finished work of Jesus helps us correctly interpret the scriptures. (New Covenant or Old Covenant?)

II. FOUR REASONS WHY WE BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES TO BE THE INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD

A. Jesus – He sanctioned the Scriptures.

1. John 5:39 *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

2. John 17:17 *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

B. Scripture Itself – The Bible reveals that it is the product of one master mind: 66 books, written by about 40 different writers, living in different places, with different lifestyles, and over a time span of 1600 years. Yet, each completes and complements the others without contradiction.

C. History – The history of the Bible is impeccable.

1. Archeologists continue to find proof of events, people, and cities mentioned in the Bible.

D. Prophecies Fulfilled – There are 2500 prophecies in the Bible, and 2000 have been fulfilled exactly—without errors. The rest will be fulfilled with the return of Christ to the earth.

1. Example: Daniel 9:24–27, Daniel's prophecy about a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Artaxerxes, the Persian king, sent Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem)

a. This decree happened in 445 BC, and after 49 years (seven sevens), in 396 BC, the Jewish people celebrated a renewal of their covenant in Jerusalem at the rebuilt temple.

b. Daniel prophesied that from the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the Messiah being cut off (crucified), it would be 62 sevens—434 years. From 396 BC to 32 AD (the year of the crucifixion), it is exactly 434 years!

Bottom Line:
You can trust the Bible!

Small Group Time:

Introduce and discuss these FOUR STEPS TO GROW IN THE WORD:

1. HEAR THE WORD

Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

- What are some of your favorite ways to HEAR THE WORD? (read it yourself, sit in service at church, listen to a message/podcast online, etc.)
- Who is one of your favorite preachers/Bible teachers, and why do you like them?

2. BELIEVE THE WORD

I Thessalonians 2:13 *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

- When you believe the Bible, it effectively works in and impacts your life! When did you first BELIEVE in Jesus? (At what age? Did someone lead you in a prayer for salvation?)

3. SPEAK THE WORD

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- What are some scriptures that you can speak over yourself?

Examples to help guide the conversation:

- When you have a difficult game or competition coming up, say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.
- When you have a difficult exam coming up, say, "I have the mind of Christ" 1 Corinthians 2:16.
- If you feel like you aren't important, say, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm 139:14.
- When you feel discouraged about the future, say, "I know the thoughts God thinks toward me, thoughts of peace and not of evil. To give me a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11.

4. ACT ON THE WORD

James 2:20 …faith without works (corresponding action) is dead.

The challenge for the week is to commit to reading an entire book of the Bible! The best way to act on the Word is to know what the Word says.

- What book of the Bible will you read this week?
  Affirm the choices of longer books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Proverbs, Genesis) or shorter ones (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Titus, 1 John).

Declaration:
"I believe the Bible. I am who it says I am. I can do what it says I can do."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** How is God's Word active in your life today?
- **Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to activate God's Word to come alive inside you. Agree to listen to what the Holy Spirit says to you and live it out this week.
- **Read:** Set aside time to read one book of the Bible this week.
- **Live It:** Choose one verse or promise from the book of the Bible you read and put it into practice today. Tell us about it next week.
- **Create:** Take a picture of yourself standing and photoshop a picture of your Bible as the firm foundation under your feet. Have fun and share your picture with the group.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you created something that every teenager would want, what would it be?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Draw from your personal experiences with a faulty foundation story or activity. If you can conceal that you are standing on a skateboard as you talk, have a helper come and give you a push to show that it can look like you're on a firm foundation, but testing reveals the bad foundation. Or, display several pictures of cracked or bad foundations, such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Opening Affirmation: "Today, I will be taught the Word of God. My mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same. I am about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same—never, never, never. In Jesus' name, amen."

Giving Time: Proverbs 11:24–25 *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty* [25]*The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.*

Encourage the youth to begin a habit of giving. Point out that as they give, their gift is blessed and has a harvest attached to it. You can't outgive God, but you can try!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Look online for charts that show Old Testament prophecies about Jesus and New Testament fulfillment. Look up several of the Bible references. No other historical writing has prophecies from 400+ years in advance that are perfectly fulfilled.

Biblical Worldview: Youth are vulnerable to accepting the worldview of their peers, which is often formed from social media. Point out that the Bible needs to be the lens we use to interpret everything and to guide us through life. In order to have a biblical worldview, you have to believe the Bible is 100% accurate and God-inspired. We can't pick and choose which parts of Scripture we like and will use and ignore things that we don't like or don't want to follow. Challenge the youth to use a biblical worldview this week when they are confronted by views on a topic from peers, social media, or others. A biblical worldview asks, "What does the Bible say about …?" Explain the importance of reading the Bible and knowing what it says—a guidebook is useless if the person doesn't open the book and read it.

Outreach/Missions: Encourage the youth to look at www.bible.com to access Scripture in over 900 languages. Spend time in prayer for translators working to get God's Word in languages that still don't have any scriptures in their languages.