

Introduction to the Lesson

Have you ever had to write a research papers? Do you remember having to use certain kinds of sources, or a certain number of sources?

How about citations? Do you remember having to learn MLA? APA? IDK?

Do you remember a time when Wikipedia WAS NOT allowable as a source for any research project? Is that still the rule of thumb now?

There is much to be said about the value of credible sources. Following the 2016 US Presidential Election, Facebook was forced to rewrite their algorithms to change how news was circulated on users' timelines. Many people were convinced that foreign operatives influenced the outcome of the US election results using false news stories widely shared on social media—so much so that the era of “Fake News” was born.

No one wants to be the recipient of “Fake News,” and no one wants to make decisions on “facts” that aren't really factual. Is there a source we can trust to give us truth, even when it's inconvenient or unsettling? How can we know it's true?

Primary Scripture

NAU 2 Timothy 3: 1, 13-17 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ... ¹³ evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is [\[b\]](#)inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for [\[i\]](#)training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

NAU 2 Peter 1:16-21 ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an [\[u\]](#)utterance as this was [\[i\]](#)made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” — ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this [\[i\]](#)utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ [\[k\]](#)So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

NAU 1 John 1:1-4 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— ² and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— ³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Secondary Studies

NAU Romans 10:5-16 ⁵ For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is [\[b\]](#)based on law shall live [\[c\]](#)by that righteousness. ⁶ But the righteousness [\[d\]](#)based on faith speaks as follows: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), ⁷ or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹ [\[e\]](#)that if

you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, ¹¹ resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, ¹² resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be ¹² disappointed.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who ¹⁶ bring good news of good things!”

¹⁶ However, they did not all heed the ¹⁷ good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” ¹⁷ So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word ¹⁸ of Christ.

Homiletical Idea (The Textual Truth)

All Scripture is inspired by God and leads to salvation in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture was written by eyewitnesses as the Holy Spirit inspired obedient men.

All Scripture was given so that we may know the Father, and His Son Jesus.

Practical Applications (The “Take-Away” Truths)

1. Our Scriptures are inspired by God for our benefit.
2. Our Scriptures are eyewitness accounts of Christ’s life, ministry, and resurrection.
3. Our Faith in God is not a “blind faith.”

Objectives

1. Observe how Scripture describes itself.
2. Acknowledge the writer’s role as an eyewitness.
3. Connect the idea of faith to an authoritative source.

Main Ideas from the Texts

1. Scripture is our solid rock when life is uncertain.
2. We can believe Scripture because eyewitnesses wrote it.
3. Our Faith in God begins with His Word.

Lesson Outline

1. The atmosphere of this society is polluted by evil.
 - a. ² *For men will be lovers of self*, —consider how selfish people have become, how fixated we are on ourselves, how our narcissism has become our primary pursuit.
 - b. *lovers of money*, —note how much of what we do revolves around how much money we can make from it; we have children attempting to be YouTube famous!
 - c. *boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited*, —observe how we treat people
 - i. Note how our relationships are so self-centered
 - ii. Note how we have lots of “friends,” yet we have no meaningful relationships.
 - iii. Note how our desires rule over our sense of good and bad
 - d. *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*, —Relate how we’re governed by our own desires
 - i. Survey how our sexual desires control our sense of self
 - ii. Consider how even though all the statistics point to the destructive nature of this sexually fluid movement, culture still points to our desire as the final arbiter of truth.
 - e. ⁵ *holding to a form of ⁶ godliness, although they have denied its power...* —even the church has allowed compromise in teaching and in practice, professing to have the form of Christ, but not

demonstrating any of His power.

2. Scripture is “God-breathed.”

a. Scripture is the written form of God’s words.

- i. Paul described the Scriptures as having been “breathed out” by God Himself.
- ii. Peter affirmed Paul’s description, saying, “no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
 1. Negatively, that the words of Scripture were not cleverly designed fables and myths, as many in modern society suggest...
 2. Positively, that the Holy Spirit inspired (“God-breathed”) men to write the words of Scripture.
 3. Because Scripture is “God-breathed,” we have a source of truth that is universal, eternal, and absolute.
 - a. Universal – for all people
 - b. Eternal – for all time
 - c. Absolute – fixed
- iii. Therefore, Scripture is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for [training in righteousness](#);
- iv. “...so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

3. The influencers of this society are paid promoters.

- a. In recent years, brands have been using so-called "influencers" -- fitness gurus, gaming addicts, beauty bloggers, fashionistas and others -- as the face of their advertisements.¹
- b. Influencers' endorsed opinions about products, which are shared on social media platforms, help spread viral conversations about brands online.
 - i. [Jake Paul](#) became popular for his role as Dirk on the Disney Channel series "Bizaardvark." He is also well-known for his YouTube channel. Paul has 10.5 million followers on Instagram and 13.6 million subscribers on YouTube.²
 - ii. [Lilly Singh](#) is a YouTube star, author, actress and comedian. Last year, she released her first book, "How to Be a Bawse: A Guide to Conquering Life." Forbes ranked Singh as one of the top influencers in entertainment. Singh has 7.2 million followers on Instagram and 13.2 million subscribers on YouTube.³
 - iii. According to figures published by [The Economist](#), YouTube is the golden egg for celebs and influencers lucky enough to have large enough followings.⁴
 1. YouTube stars with more than 7 million followers can expect to earn an eye-watering **\$300,000 per post**. Even those with a comparatively paltry 100,000 followers can still command \$12,500.
 2. Facebook is the next lucrative platform. Individuals with more than 7 million followers can rake in \$187,500 for commercial endorsements, while Snapchat and Instagram are level-pegging at \$150,000 each.
 3. Twitter, meanwhile, lags behind somewhat. Celebs in the 7m-follower bracket can ‘only’ command \$60,000. Still not bad for what probably amounts to around **10 seconds’ work**.
- c. Paid advertisements can backfire, however, when followers grow weary of constant promotions, or the promoter is seen to be more interested in selling a product than producing desired content.

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/social-media-influencers-influential-2018/11/>, accessed 1/8/2019.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://oursocialtimes.com/how-much-do-celebrities-and-influencers-get-paid-for-social-posts/>, accessed 1/8/2019.

4. Scripture is first-hand.
 - a. Peter was an in-person follower of Christ.
 - i. His presence with Jesus was corroborated across the Gospels, the book of Acts, and several NT epistles.
 - ii. "...we were eyewitnesses of His majesty."
 - iii. "...we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."
 - b. John was an in-person, follower of Christ.
 - i. His presence with Jesus was corroborated across the Gospels, the book of Acts, and several NT epistles.
 - ii. "...what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life... we have seen and testify and proclaim to you."
 - iii. "...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you..."
 - c. Ancient books and letters were added to the Scripture ONLY if they matched all the following criteria;⁵
 - i. They must claim the authority of God.
 - ii. They must relate prophetic content.
 - iii. They must align with the other revealed words of God.
 - iv. They must demonstrate life-transforming power.
 - v. They must have been accepted as such by the early followers of Christ.

5. The direction of this society is deceptive.
 - a. Media credibility is at an all-time low.
 - b. Public trust of the government is nil.

6. Scripture is faith-full.
 - a. The Scriptures have no incentive to promote an ulterior motive.
 - b. The Scriptures demonstrate unconventional choices by the authors to elevate women, as well as the marginalized and disenfranchised.
 - c. The Scriptures have always proclaimed a Gospel that is counter-intuitive to culture, to human nature, to common conventions.

Teaching Hints and Tips

- Consider how truth is so often distorted, stretched, relativized by different perspectives.
- Explore the logical implications of asserting no absolute truths.
- Acknowledge the tension that exists between those who reject absolute truths, and those who hold to an authority.

Illustrations/Multimedia

⁵ Geisler, Norman L. & William Nix, "A General Introduction To The Bible," pp. 137-144. For more information about canonization (the process of choosing the books of the Bible as we know it), research the Council of Jamnia (AD 90), the Council of Athanasius (AD 367) and the Council of Carthage (AD 397).

Ant-Man

2015, Walt Disney Pictures, PG-13, Action & Adventure



Director:
Peyton Reed

Actors:
Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas,
Evangeline Lilly, Hayley Atwell,
Michael Pena, Corey Stoll

Plot:
Armed with a super-suit with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, cat burglar Scott Lang must embrace his inner hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, plan and pull off a heist that will save the world.

Scene #6 Hero learns to use powerful suit (CV08625)

Dr. Pym and Hope are training Scott to use his new super-suit. Pym: "In the right hands, the relationship between suit and man is symbiotic. The suit has power. The man harnesses that power." They close the bedroom door, directing Scott to run at the door, shrink himself, and leap through the key hole in one, seamless motion. Standing behind the door, the Pym's wait for Scott to appear. Over and over again, a thumping sound tells them that Scott has failed, instead slamming himself into the door. Hope, whispering: "Useless." Next, Hope decides to train Scott to punch. Scott smiles condescendingly: "I was in prison for three years. I think I know how to punch." Hope: "Show me." Scott's weak punch barely moves Hope's hand. Scott, smiling, invites Hope to demonstrate her own punch. Hope easily knocks him to the floor.



Time: 1:01
Start Time: 0:49:21
End Time: 0:50:22

Start Cue: "In the right hands..."

End Cue: "That's how you punch"

Themes:
+ Armor of God
+ Experience vs Inexperience
+ Practice
+ Training

USE YOUR OWN DVD

**This clip illustrates training on special equipment from a trusted source.*

Small Group Questions and Prompts

MIDDLE SCHOOL

If you were internet-famous, would you promote products in your content? If so, what kinds of products would you want to promote? Which sponsorships would you most want? Why?

Who are the people (or, who is the person) you trust most? What have they done that led you to believe their words? What causes you to lose trust in a person's words?

If you KNOW (or even believe) that someone is getting paid to tell you they like a product, or that they HATE a product (yes, that's a thing, too), does it make them

- d. more believable,
- e. less believable, or
- f. it doesn't matter.

What about the Bible makes it believable? Or Unbelievable?

What would make it more or less trustworthy for you and your faith?

Why do you think unbelievers have such difficulty believing the Bible to be true, a standard to uphold?

What are the biggest events to which you've been an eyewitness?

If you had the testimony of 3 different eyewitnesses to a car accident, how would you decide which one to believe? Is it possible that all three could be true without being identical?

Would it be easier to understand Scripture (especially the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke) if you thought of them as eyewitness-testimonies?

If you were an eyewitness to Jesus' life, what kinds of details would you think were important for other people to know?

Do you use God's Word? How? What's the biggest obstacle keeping you from following God's Word?

How can we help you make God's Word more of a priority in your life?

HIGH SCHOOL

If you were internet-famous, would you promote products in your content? If so, what kinds of products would you want to promote? Which sponsorships would you most want? Why?

Who are the people (or, who is the person) you trust most? What have they done that led you to believe their words? What causes you to lose trust in a person's words?

If you KNOW (or even believe) that someone is getting paid to tell you they like a product, or that they HATE a product (yes, that's a thing, too), does it make them

- a. more believable,
- b. less believable, or
- c. it doesn't matter.

Have you ever had to write an essay, a research paper, or some kind of creative work that required you to use sources? What kinds of sources are the easiest to get? Were you required to use specific kinds of sources? Did you have to "cite your sources"? Why would that be important?

What about the Bible makes it believable? Or Unbelievable?

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If you were an eyewitness to Jesus' life, what kinds of details would you think were important for other people to know?

If the Bible didn't exist, what would you use to help you decide how to live your life?

- Your friends? ... How much more smart or experienced are your friends than you, really?
- Your own feelings? ... Have your feelings ever led you to make wrong choices?
- Your parent's rules? ... Do your parents have a rule about EVERY POSSIBLE CHOICE you make?
- The laws of your town? ... Are all of our laws honorable and right, and for our best interest?

Wouldn't it be best to have a single place to find answers, guidelines, directions—a place that's constant for all time and for every person?

Do you use God's Word? How? What's the biggest obstacle keeping you from following God's Word? How can we help you make God's Word more of a priority in your life?