

IGNITE TEEN HANDOUT

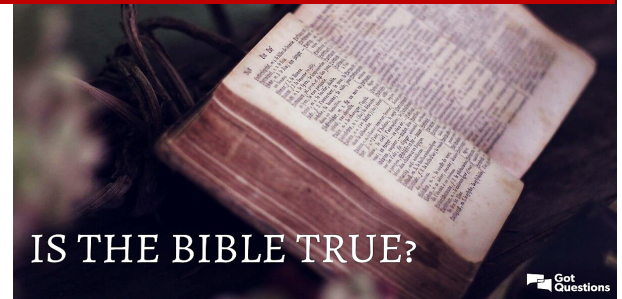
Week 5 – 10/24/2021

Making sense of the Bible

SET THE WORLD ABLAZE!

Lesson Introduction

The Word God speaks to us in love, inviting us to be friends. God's Word is life giving. It has the power to heal, comfort, affirm, challenge and instruct. As Catholic-Christians, we believe that the Bible is **reliable**, **truthful** and **sincere** because we believe our God is **reliable**, **truthful** and **sincere**.



Yet learning how to hear the Word of God, and through it, **feel God's loving presence**, takes time and effort. Like all the information we receive, we have to learn how to **interpret** what we hear/read in the Bible.

Many people (young and old) become discouraged when they first try to explore the Bible. Indeed the very first story - the story of creation - raises questions about whether or not what the Bible presents is true. Lack of confidence in biblical truth, is one of the major issues that raises doubt and diminishes faith. If we do not have confidence that the Bible is reliable, it undermines our belief in the trustworthiness of God Himself. If we question the honesty and sincerity of God's communication to us, we simply stop listening.



Tonight we are going to ask the question, "Is the Bible a reliable source of knowledge"

Knowing does not happen all at once. Knowing is a process.



Understanding how this process works helps us become more skillful and adept knowers.

Knowledge builds on knowledge

Like building a block tower, we test and assemble each piece of data we receive to create concepts that work together to create ideas that lead us to draw conclusions.



Over time, we build a bank of things we know. This is called prior knowledge. Maintaining our bank of prior knowledge in good order requires that we occasionally review what we have learned so we can use it to add to our understanding. That's one of the reasons for the Teen Handouts.

Catholics believe God Has A Plan

That every person will find truth and happiness and all of creation will achieve its full potential.

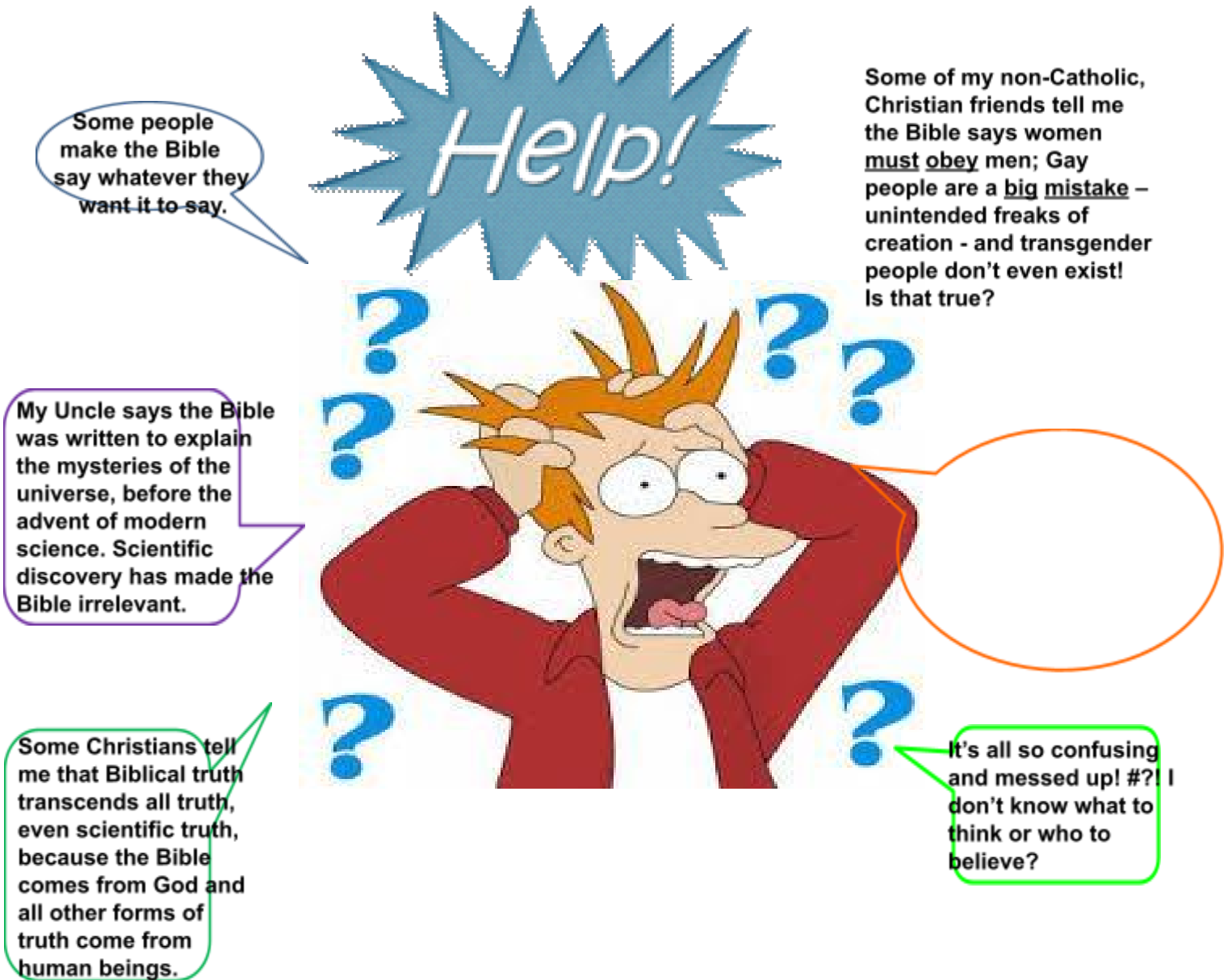
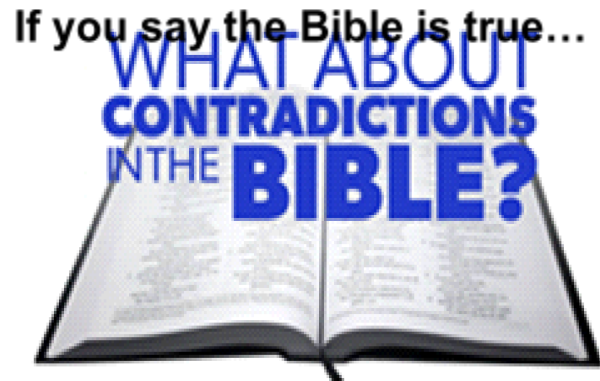
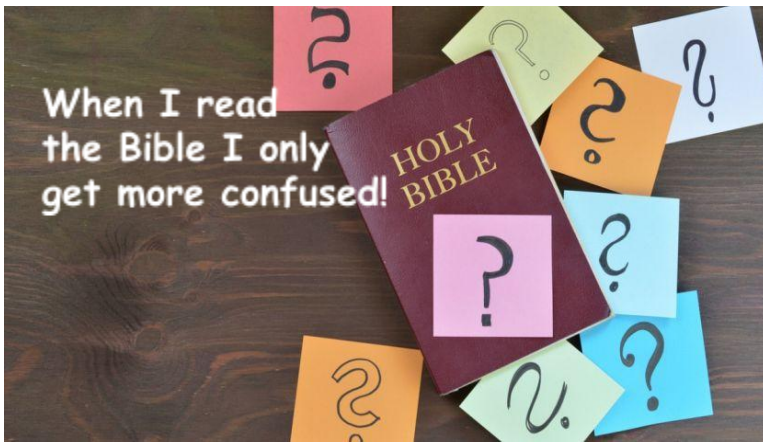
"God, infinitely perfect and blessed, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created humans to share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to us. God invites all men and women to **seek** him, to **know** him, to **love** him.'

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church I.1 (known from now on as CCC)

Created in God's image and called to know and love him, the person who seeks God discovers certain ways of coming to know him. **CCC II.31**

Only in God will we find the truth and happiness we seek - CCC I.27

What do you believe?



Does anyone really know what the Bible says?!

A faith to call your own
It is time to...



Bible = Library
73 books, 2 Testaments,
written & edited by
multiple authors over
thousands of years from
diverse cultural &
theological perspectives.

Yep, truth is truth. It is
both objective and
subjective. And of course
you know **truth does not
equal fact**. Facts are part
of truth, but truth is
bigger more inclusive
than just facts.



Truth is Truth, right?
So how complex can
this Bible stuff be?



CONTEXT MATTERS

I shoot people

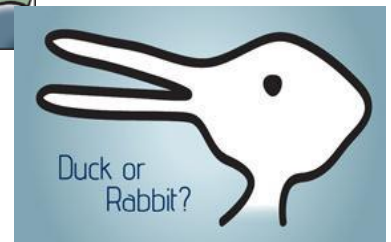


Then I take them into
dark rooms
and blow them up

#DebunktionJunktion

#DebunktionJunktion

Meaning is all in
the Interpretation. . .



BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION CONSIDERS

Historical
setting

Point
of view

Cultural
context

Genre
Literary Form

Linguistics
Language



Sounds pretty
complicated to me.
Is it worth all the
brain drain ?!#

"It is not the answer that
enlightens, but the
question."



Thoughtful questions stimulate, provoke, inform and inspire.

Ask questions

- ☐ When contradictions appear
- ☐ If you do not know the context or the context is unclear
- ☐ If multiple interpretations seem possible
- ☐ If the wording of the passage seems puzzling or obscure
- ☐ The passage, or teaching someone draws for the passage, denies or negates your lived experience

ASK YOURSELF

- What is this book or passage's literary genre? What are the guidelines for understanding it?
- What was the historical situation at the time this book was written? How did the human author(s) address this situation?
- Is there a cultural practice or attitude reflected in this book/passage that I need to understand to appreciate the author(s) intention?
- How does this book or story fit into the overall story of salvation history?
- Is my understanding of this passage consistent with the rest of Scripture?

Answers validate what is
already known and
presumed to be true.

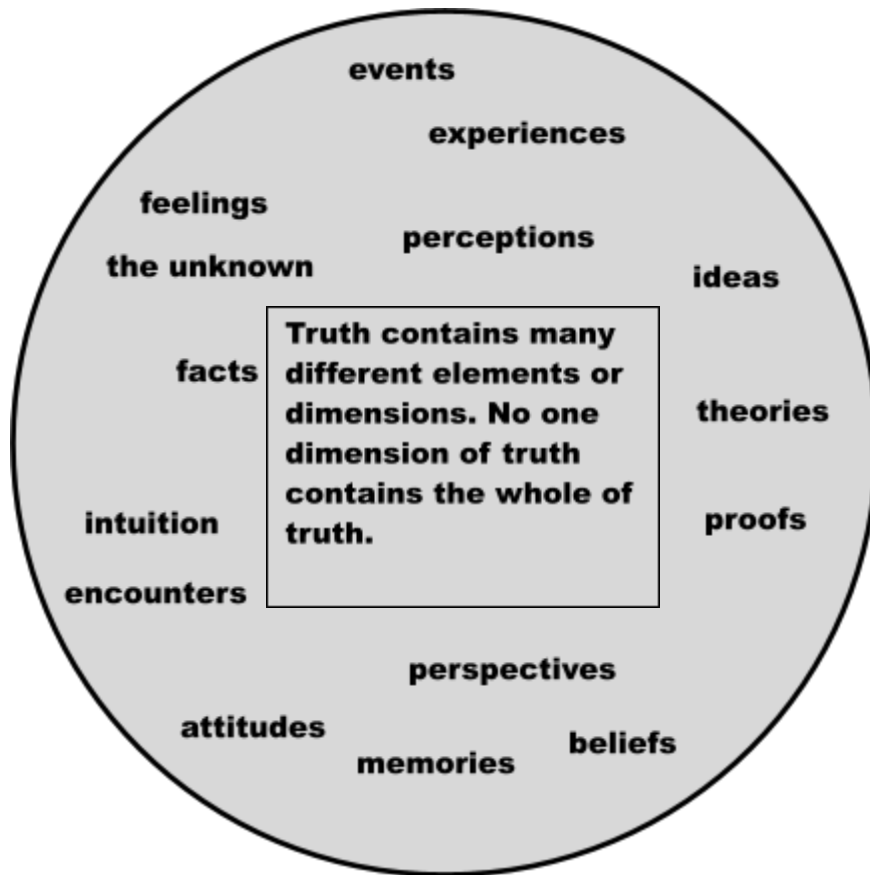
Questions are the
source of all knowledge.

Questions

- Draw out understandings
- Refine current answers
- Reveal current answers to be deficient or obsolete
- Open paths of inquiry
- Generate curiosity
- Inspire creativity
- Lead to deeper insights
- Engage others
- Influences/alters one's own point of view or another's
- Expose bias

One Way to Visualize Truth

Truth speaks about the known and unknown; the seen and unseen; the proven and the not yet even imagined. Truth is both **objective** (true for all, everywhere) and **subjective** (true for some). Truth can be readily apparent and hidden.

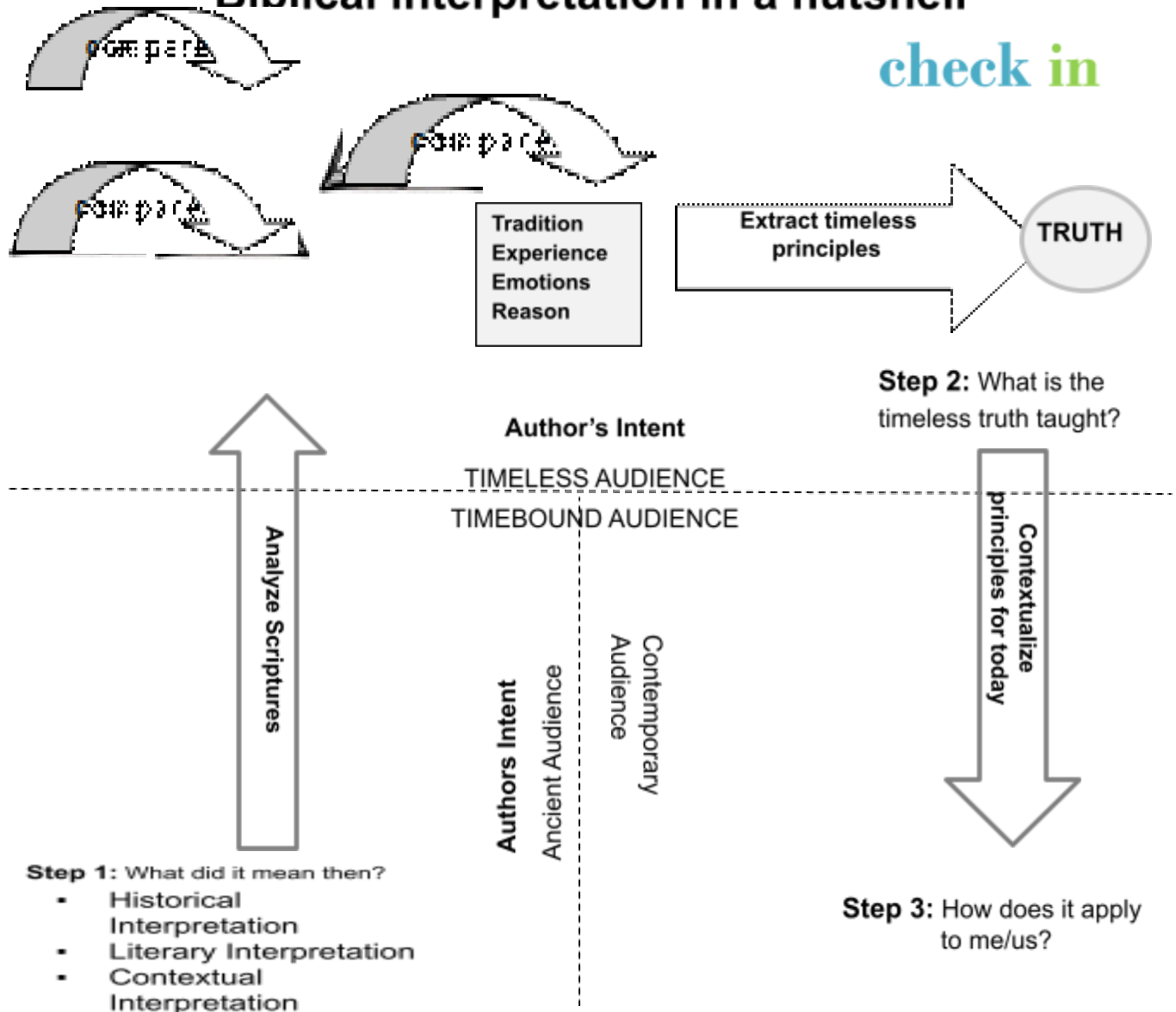


Which of the following quotes about truth do you agree with?

Which challenge your idea of truth

- ☐ The truth is still the truth even if no one believes it.
- ☐ The Truth will set you free.
- ☐ Most people do not want truth. They just want constant reassurance that what they belief is the truth.
- ☐ Truth is always the strongest argument.
- ☐ The truth hurts
- ☐ The facts don't always reveal the truth, but the truth always reveals the facts.
- ☐ Faith, in things we cannot see, isn't foolish; it's where we find truth and meaning.

Biblical interpretation in a nutshell



Check off the box that most represents what you think. Forget right or wrong, think honest or less than honest.

I agree

I disagree

I am not sure

- God has a plan for me and all of creation.
- The Bible is reliable, truthful and sincere, because God is reliable, truthful and sincere.
- Lack of confidence in biblical truth, is one of the major issues that raises doubt and diminishes faith.
- Only in God will we find the truth and happiness we seek.
- Everything in the Bible is true



God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

Abraham's faith and trust in God has become a model for Jews, Christians and Muslims. All three of these religions trace their faith back to Abraham. He embodies for all three what it means to have a deep and personal friendship with God.



- ☐ What does this passage tell us about Abraham?
- ☐ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ☐ What does this passage tell us about the relationship between Abraham and God?
- ☐ God assures Abraham saying, "Do not fear, Abram! I am your shield." Have you ever experienced God as your shield, your protection against fear? If so how did that make you feel? How does thinking about God being your shield make you feel right now?
- ☐ God took Abraham outside and had him try to count the stars as a way of showing Abraham how many descendants he would have. What signs does God show us about his willingness to be faithful to us?
- ☐ How does knowing the story of Abraham help us trust God?
- ☐ How does Abraham's faith in God help us believe in God more readily?

D. Putting Faith Into Action (3-5 min)

Knowing  Believing

Identify 1 thing you will do this week because you came to IGNITE tonight

Faith is the ability to believe, but that ability must be used and acted upon for faith to come alive and make a difference. Jesus tells us our lives must produce fruit.

Believing is the action side of faith – believing is 'acting in faith.' Just having faith is not enough. Having the ability to believe is not enough.

In the epistle of James, James calls out the hypocrisy within the community – people who were professing faith in Christ, claiming to be a Christian, who were not, in fact, Christian.

"If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled" and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"