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Section: Doctrine of the Word of God

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q24. Can we trust the Bible?**

Yes. The Bible is completely true and without error in its original manuscripts.

1. What is a textual variant? Why is this topic important to understand?
2. Approximately how many textual variants do we have in the handwritten Greek texts? Why is it important for believers to understand this number and be prepared to discuss it before it comes up in the context of unbelief?
3. What percentage of these variants are translatable into the English language? Why is this an important fact to know?
4. What is a viable textual variance? What makes a variant viable?
5. What are some reasons the variants exist in the transmission of Scripture?
6. Why should the reality of the textual variants in Scripture strengthen your faith? What details about the history of the transmission of Scripture should give us confidence in the text?
7. Of the two million pages of handwritten Greek New Testament texts that are in possession, how many meaningful, viable variants exist? How does this number compare to the overall number, and how would you defend this reality with someone who attacks the Scriptures?
8. How do the Scriptures line up with other writings from antiquity? What does that mean for their authenticity?
9. Are there any prominent figures from antiquity that you learned about in school? Given tonight’s lesson, what questions might you ask about these figures if you had the chance?
10. We have a collection of manuscripts from a wide geographical location; how does this help our confidence in the accuracy of the Scriptures?
11. If someone were to claim that there were wholesale changes made in the Scriptures, how might you defend the Scriptures against such claims?
12. What is the difference between the transmission of the text and the translation of the text?
13. What are the two multi-verse variants found in the New Testament? Why do scholars believe these passages are not a part of the original text?
14. Is the content of tonight’s lesson new to you? If so, how was this lesson helpful?
15. Do you see the need for us to tackle tough topics for clarity? How does this increase our ability to defend our faith well?
16. What are some questions you have that your leader can send in or possibly answer now? What areas of the canon of Scripture or the history of the transmission of Scripture would you like to learn more about?