
Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2026

Class Curriculum - Back to the Bible

Age - Senior Campers

Tuesday - The Inerrant Word

Summary

1. Subject: The Bible is inerrant, which means it is written without flaws or contradictions
2. Scripture: Mark 15:1-15, Matthew 1:18-25
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Realize that all scripture is inerrant. This is a natural result of it being inspired by God. Inerrancy means that there are no flaws, either internal or external.
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Lesson

Overview: This week's classes will focus on "Back to the Bible". This entails an overview of the Old and New Testaments, as well as the inspiration and inerrancy of scripture. By the end of the week, all campers should be confident that the Bible is the complete and perfect word of God: sufficient for everyone to have an everlasting relationship with God.

Today's lesson will focus on the inerrancy of scripture. This is an obvious conclusion (since the all-knowing God inspired the writing of the Bible, it should naturally be without any flaw); however, this is also an important belief that Christians should be ready to defend. Inerrancy must be proven externally; if an outside source of information can indicate a flaw in scripture, then scripture cannot be inerrant. Inerrancy must also be proven internally; if the Bible contradicts itself, it cannot be inerrant. An effective Christian should be able to articulate inerrancy at both the internal and external levels.

External Inerrancy

External inerrancy is important, and can be proven in two ways: historically and scientifically. The Bible can be corroborated by historical records (although proving that any other historical record is “true” is difficult). It can also be corroborated by science. Except for God’s many miracles, the events in scripture follow laws of science that were not even known at the time of their writing.

Mark 15:1-15

This passage is the account of Jesus’s trial before his crucifixion at the hands of Pontius Pilate. Importantly, every step of the process follows the laws of Rome at the time: the Jews needed the approval from Roman officials to sentence someone to death, the governor released a prisoner at the time of a significant annual festival, etc. Additionally, Pontius Pilate is specifically mentioned in multiple historical accounts as the Roman governor of that area at that time (i.e., the stone inscription in Caesarea Maritima and the writings of Josephus), and the events of Christ’s crucifixion are also independently recorded by contemporary historians.

The Old Testament prophecies were written well before the life of Jesus, and today we still have copies of Isaiah and other prophecies that date before Christ. The miraculous fulfillment of these prophecies through the corroborated events of Jesus’s trials and crucifixion is enough to prove that the Old Testament is equally as reliable. Additionally, hundreds of ancient pieces of evidence corroborate specific Old Testament facts, like the life and reign of many Israeli kings, the presence of nations mentioned in scripture, the archaeological evidence for a worldwide flood, and much more.

Isaiah 40:22, Job 26:7

These two verses describe the earth as a “circle” and that it is suspended “over nothing”. This is one of many examples of the Old Testament accurately attesting to facts proven by science many years later. It would not be until ~500 BC that people theorized the earth was a sphere, and not until much later that it would be confirmed and accepted. In addition, the Old Testament includes many health practices that were ahead of their time, including God’s dietary laws that restricted foods prone to bad bacteria and parasites, and His laws around washing and ritual cleansing that helped prevent the spread of disease. These concepts would not be formally recognized in the world until much, much later.

Internal Inerrancy

Internal inerrancy can be proven by reading through the scriptures. The only time a “contradiction” would be argued is when an event is recounted multiple times, or a time when the future is prophesied, and it is wrong. Every prophecy in the Old Testament is fulfilled accurately (from the various dreams in Genesis to the prophecies surrounding Christ), and many of the New Testament prophecies have already been accurately fulfilled (like the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem). For that reason, these passages will focus on one example of alleged “contradictions” in the Gospels, where separate books give a unique account of events. You will find that while there are differences, there are no “contradictions”.

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 1:18-25

Both readings are separate accounts of the birth of Jesus Christ, and they are quite different on the surface level. Matthew follows the perspective of Joseph, who was betrothed to Mary. Joseph sees that Mary is pregnant, and decides to respectfully divorce her until an angel speaks to him in a dream to say that Mary’s pregnancy is not infidelity, but the work of the Lord. He chooses to stay with Mary, and Jesus is born.

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:1-2:7 gives the full account of the birth of Christ according to Luke. The selected verses describe how an angel came to Mary before she became pregnant with Christ to tell her of the things to come. In Luke’s account, Joseph’s interactions with the angel are not included at all. In Matthew’s account, Mary’s vision and subsequent travels are not included at all.

Reading Comprehension:

- Why do you think these two accounts are so different from one another? (Matthew is following the perspective of Joseph, and Luke is following the perspective of Mary. While they went through the same event, they had different experiences. Matthew and Luke also have different goals: Luke is compiling “an orderly account,” so he includes more detail; Matthew is primarily proving that Jesus is the fulfillment of OT prophecies, so he is more brief and focuses on Joseph, the descendant of David)
- Is anything contradictory in these two accounts? (No, both of these accounts would have happened around the other. No part is mutually exclusive of the other)

DISCUSSION

Let's begin with a hypothetical question. Ask, "How would you react to the discovery of an old document that contradicts the Bible? For example, a Roman text that claims Peter was involved with the early church." This type of alleged "contradiction" happens quite often, and should be treated like any time in your life when two people tell you different things. Just because something is new does not mean it is correct. You must decide which source is more trustworthy. For Christians who believe the Bible is inspired, it is automatically more reliable than a random ancient writing. For skeptics, there is still much more proof of the Bible than anything else. For the example above, we can be confident in Peter's work with the early church due to the massive amount of other writings that refer to him, including the many early copies of his epistles and the book of Acts. If those were not true, they would not have been believed, copied, and circulated so much. The same argument can be made for nearly any other part of scripture: the Bible was clearly believed by its audience, so any ancient counter-argument we may discover today is either completely untrue or was not reliable enough to be trusted in its time.

Scientifically, there are many interesting discussions. People who do not believe in God or His miracles will attest that every miraculous sign in scripture is a contradiction to science. As Christians, we believe that God is able to bend the laws of nature at His will. Ask, "What are some scientific contradictions that you hear people make against the Bible?" To the best of your ability, walk your campers through some of the common arguments.

- "The earth is millions of years old, but the Bible indicates that it is roughly 6,000 years old." The way that people date the world is inconsistent and prone to error. Some dating methods are consistent and accurate up to a point of several thousand years, but no method is considered extremely reliable beyond that. Even then, very old parts of the earth should not bother Christians, as God likely made the Earth with age, just as He created Adam and Eve as adults.
- "The Bible says people like Adam lived for hundreds of years, and science shows that lifespans are getting longer, not shorter". Yes, in recent history, we have seen lifespans improve as medicine and safety practices increase; however, the Biblical account also makes sense. God created people to live forever, and it wasn't until Adam and Eve's sin that mankind was allowed to die. With their original design being eternal, and the nature of the world being perfect (no disease, mutations, etc.), it makes sense that the first people would have lived long lifetimes until sin's corruption affected natural processes.

To believe that the Bible is inspired, you must also believe that it is inerrant. This can be done by faith alone, yet can often be supplemented by logic, science, and history. Every Christian should be prepared to make a defense for the inerrancy of scripture.