

TALK IT OVER

The Investigation

BOTTOM LINE

We do not build our faith on mere ancient manuscripts, but on eyewitness accounts of real people who saw Jesus, and the careful records of those who knew Him.

CONVERSATION STARTER

How old were you when you first talked about Jesus? What are your first recollections?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCE

- The Daily:
newpointe.org/thedaily
- "Who is this man?" by John Ortberg (44 min.)

VERSES AND QUOTES

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1:1-4 NIV

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. Luke 24:50-52 NIV

"The story of Jesus is not a Bible story. The life and ministry of Jesus is why there is a Bible. Jesus is the reason for the Bible."

"Luke's account is not valuable because it is in the New Testament/the Bible. It's in the New Testament because it was valuable, considered dependable and true from the moment it was written."

– Quotes by Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

The vital question is this: "Is any one of the Gospels a reliable account of actual events?" If so, what they say about Jesus is true. Luke is a reliable, eyewitness account, and he wrote it so that Theophilus would know what was truly true. Many people wrote the account of Jesus, yet this account of Luke's has survived and was chosen to be in the Bible. What impressed you most about his reliability? How did Luke "carefully investigate"? Luke carefully writes that Jesus was God by documenting the things He did that only God could do. **He forgave sins** (5:20-21). Why did this enrage the religious leaders? **He controlled nature** (8:24-25). Why did His control over the storm terrify the disciples? **His title was Lord. Kyrios in Greek/Yahweh in OT** (3:4). Why did ordinary people recognize Jesus as Lord, but the religious leaders did not? **He claimed His words were eternal** (21:33). Put yourself in their place. Jesus said His words carried the same weight as the law they had been obeying their entire lives. How difficult would that be to receive? Discuss. Even though Jesus left them and returned to heaven in front of their eyes, the disciples were full of confidence and joy (24:50-52). What enabled that? What did you learn that has increased your confidence in Jesus?

ACTION STEP

Jesus is God and the account of His life is true. It stands up to investigation. I will share with confidence: _____