## Can we trust the Bible? (Grades K-2)

As Christians sometimes we can have questions about our faith. Can we really trust the Bible? During this lesson, we are going to look at three common questions and provide you with a tool to help strengthen your faith.
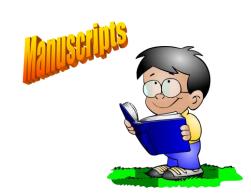
Let's get started!

Since the Bible was written so long ago, can we trust it?  Is what we have today the same as what was written so long ago? Let's take a look at our helpful tool—MAP.  Each letter of MAP stands for something:

# M = Manuscripts

# A

# P

The word "manuscript" simply means writings or book. Since the Bible was written long before computers were invented, it was written on scrolls made of parchment (paper) and animal skins. Over time, these materials would fall apart. Because of this, a special group of people called scribes would copy the words of the original scrolls onto new scrolls. The scribes were very careful when copying the scrolls! Once they were done, they would carefully check the new scroll to ensure that it was perfect. If they found even one mistake, they would destroy the scroll and start all over again…and you thought your teacher was tough! So, did it work? Let's talk about the Dead Sea Scrolls.
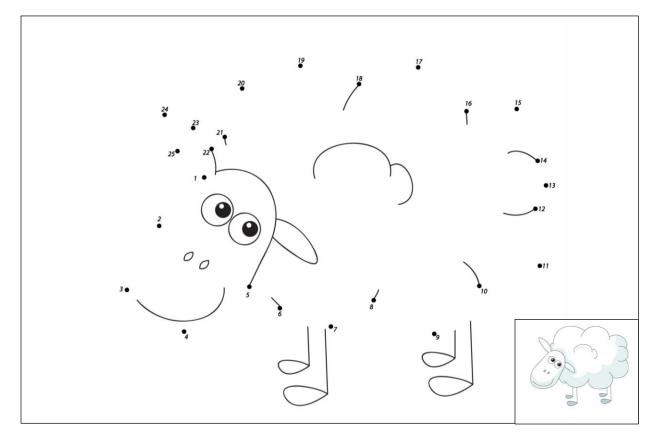
In 1947, some shepherds looking for their lost sheep near the Dead Sea found some caves. They wondered if their sheep had wandered into a cave. Since they knew that wild animals sometimes live in caves, one of the shepherds threw a rock into the cave to make sure it was safe to go in. Instead of a roar, they heard a



The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves stored in jars like the one shown above.

loud crash! When they went into the cave, they found one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of our time—the Dead Sea Scrolls. The scrolls were found in clay jars and included fragments of almost every book in the Old Testament. They even found a complete copy of the book of Isaiah! When experts compared the book of Isaiah that we have in our Bibles today to the Dead Sea scroll, it turned out to be 95% the same! God has done a great job preserving His holy Word!

**Activity:** connect the dots in the picture below.

Ok, let's move on to the next question: are the stories in the Bible real? Is there any evidence? Let's look at our MAP:
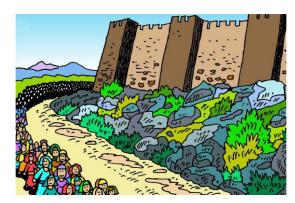
# M = Manuscripts

# A = Archaeology

# P

The "A" in MAP stands for archaeology. Archaeology is the study of history through ancient ruins and artifacts. Over the years, archaeologists have discovered several things that provide evidence that the Bible can be trusted—including the ruins of Jericho! When the archaeologists looked closely at the ruins, they discovered that the walls fell outward, just like the Bible says.
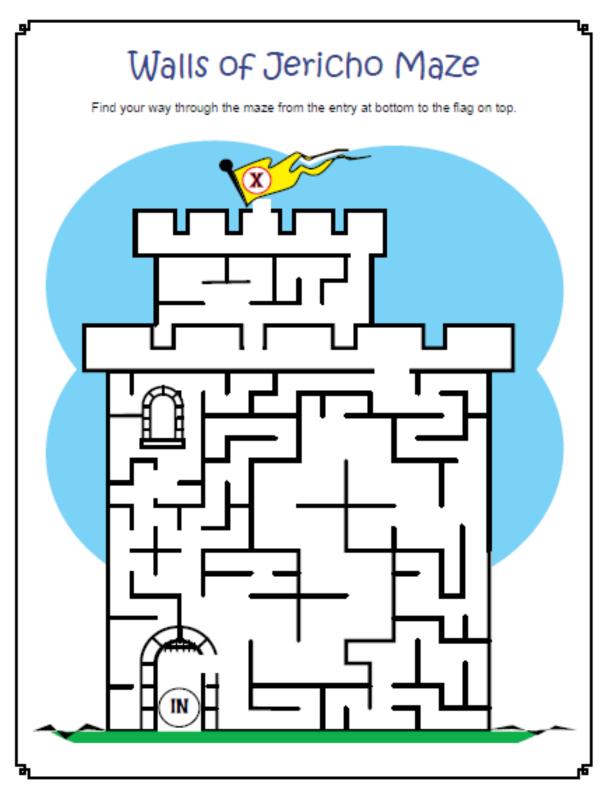
Sometimes God tells us to do things that do not make sense to us, but He always has a good reason. For example, God told the Israelites to march around Jericho once per day for six days while blowing their horns. On the seventh day, God had them march around the city seven times and then shout and blow their horns. When they did, the walls of Jericho came crashing down. Why did God choose to do it this way? Because this miracle let everyone know that the Israelites were God's chosen people and He was going to fight for them.

credit: www.freebibleimages.org

**Activity:** find your way through the maze below.

# Walls of Jericho Maze

Find your way through the maze from the entry at bottom to the flag on top.

X

IN

Ok, it's time for the final question: how do we know that the Bible is really God's Word? After all, some people think that the Bible is just a book that contains lots of stories. Glad you asked! Let's look at our MAP again:

# M = Manuscripts

# A = Archaeology

# <u>P = Prophecy</u>

The "P" in MAP stands for prophecy. Prophecies are predictions about the future and the Bible contains hundreds of them! Many prophecies are about Jesus Christ and have already come true. Here are a few examples:

**Prediction:** "Jesus would be born in the town of Bethlehem." Micah 5:2

> **Fulfilment:** Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:23,31

**Prediction:** "Descendant from the House of David." Jeremiah 23:5

> **Fulfilment:** Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:23,31

**Prediction:** "Jesus would heal people who are blind and deaf."  Isaiah 35:5-6

> **Fulfilment:** Matthew 9:35

**Prediction:** "Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey." Zechariah. 9:9

> **Fulfilment:** Luke 19:35-37

**Prediction:** "He would be buried in a rich man's tomb."     Isaiah 53:9

> **Fulfilment:** Matt. 27:57-60

**Prediction:** "Jesus would be raised from the dead."    Psalm 16:10, 30:3

> **Fulfilment:** Acts 2:31, 13:33-35

As you can see, Jesus has already fulfilled many prophecies and will fulfil the remaining ones when He comes back some day. What is the probability of just eight prophecies coming true in one person?

1 chance in $10^{28}$ or 10,000,000,000,000, 000,000,000,000,000!

In other words, it is impossible—but not for God!  Since God exists outside of space and time, He sees everything all at once. How do we know that the Bible is God's Word? Hundreds of fulfilled prophecies prove it!

The next time you have doubts, remember MAP

**M = Manuscripts:** The Dead Sea Scrolls and other discoveries prove that what we have in our Bibles is essentially the same that was written thousands of years ago. God has done a great job preserving His Word!

**A = Archaeology:** Archaeological discoveries have confirmed many historical details found in the Bible. No one has ever discovered anything that disproves the Bible!

**P = Prophecy:** hundreds of fulfilled prophecies prove that the Bible is really the Word of God.


Although it is good to have questions about the Bible, nagging doubts or disbelief can weaken your faith. We like to call these doubts "Doubt Monsters".  Remember, the evidence shows that we can trust the Bible!


**Activity:** Doubt Monster targets

1. Print the Doubt Monster targets on the next three pages. Cardstock works the best, but regular paper will work.
2. Fold the pages along the lines.
3. Set up the Doubt Monster targets.
4. Use paper balls, rubber bands or dart guns to knock down the targets.

# Doubt Monster

# Doubt Monster

# Doubt Monster