

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: SUNDAY SCHOOL KIT

SESSION 5 – THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE

1. What does “the canon of Scripture” mean and is it important that Christians agree on it?
2. What does it mean for the Bible to have authority?
3. How did the early church treat the New Testament writings? Why is this helpful to understand its authority?
4. What would you say to someone who claims that the books of the Bible were chosen by a council in the Middle Ages?

WORTH NOTING

The essence of scriptural authority is that when we hear and believe the words of the Bible it is equivalent to believing God Himself (Ps. 119:89-90, Ezek. 12:28, Acts 20:32, 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Christians recognize that we do not worship the Bible itself, as interesting or essential as the book is for us. To use John Wesley’s phrase, the Bible is a “means of grace” – it is one of the primary ways God has given to work within us love, obedience, humility, and every fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ps. 19:7, Isa. 55:10-11, Heb. 4:12-13). It is important then for us to make sure that no earthly authority contradict, undermine, or usurp the authority God has given to His Word (Col. 3:16).

[additional questions]

- + Should Protestant Christians be more aware of what is written in the Apocrypha?
- + Discuss Hebrews 1:1-4. What does this passage show us about God’s revelation?

Other passages to consider: Matt. 22:41-46, 2 Pet. 3:15-16