

**BIBLE**  
**3**

**FOUNDATIONS**

— LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH —

**Topic 1**

HOW BIG WAS THE ARK?

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

HOW OLD IS THE EARTH?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

WHEN DID DINOSAURS LIVE?

# How to Use Foundations for Grade 3

## Components

*Foundations for Grade 3* includes all the necessary elements for you to teach your students with excellence while engaging them in the learning process. The following components are available for your use.

### Teacher Book

Lessons include teacher background, preparation instructions, a step-by-step instructional routine, and opportunities for assessment, differentiation, and enrichment.

### Student Book

◆ **Study Pages** are included to help guide students' study of Scripture. There will be one Study Pages per lesson. If you send pages home, don't send these pages home until after the second lesson. These pages are used during the Study section of each lesson and provide learning aids like:

- » illustrations
- » graphic organizers
- » charts
- » diagrams
- » short summaries of key scriptures that are written in student-friendly language

◆ **Practice Pages** are included to reinforce key concepts. These practice pages are aligned to the learner outcomes and often incorporate other curricular areas like phonemic awareness, phonics, math, and handwriting.

### Resource Book

High-quality visual aids and printables are included with each unit:

- ◆ Unit Verse Visuals
- ◆ illustrations and/or visual aids
- ◆ print-based games and activities

### Review & Assessment Book

Additional opportunities for review and assessment are included for each unit:

- ◆ **Topic Reviews** are provided every two topics to help students review and connect concepts between lessons.
- ◆ **Unit Assessments** are summative assessments provided at the end of each unit and are aligned to the unit objectives.
- ◆ **Alternative Assessments** are hands-on activities provided at the end of each unit. They offer additional ways for students with differing learning styles and needs to show their understanding of unit concepts.
- ◆ **Memory Verse Practice Pages** are provided for unit verses.

### Classroom Posters

These large classroom posters enhance the lessons and provide visual reminders of important truths:

- ◆ 30 Unit Verse Visual Posters
- ◆ 7 C's of History Expanded Timeline Poster
- ◆ Attributes of God Poster
- ◆ Books of the Bible Poster

# TOPIC 1

# We Can Trust the New Testament



We can trust the New Testament.

## Learner Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- ◆ Describe the Bible as God-breathed
- ◆ Recall how the New Testament came to be
- ◆ Recognize that ancient manuscripts support the reliability of the New Testament

## Cornerstones

- ◆ The Bible is God-breathed.
- ◆ God chose men to write the inspired text of the New Testament by the power of the Holy Spirit. The authors of the New Testament were either eyewitnesses to Jesus' life on earth or close friends of the apostles.
- ◆ God preserved thousands of New Testament manuscripts. We know what the original message said by comparing copies.

## Key Passages

**Unit Memory Verse 1:** Exodus 20:2-3

**Lessons:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:25-26, 16:13, 19:35, 20:31; 2 Peter 1:16, 3:15-16

## Vocabulary

**manuscript:** a handwritten document

**testimony:** an eyewitness account of what happened

**myth:** a made-up story

## Suggested Catechisms

**Who is the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit is God and a person of the Trinity.

**What is the Bible?** The Bible is the Word of God.

**Who wrote the Bible?** Chosen men wrote the inspired text by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Materials/Preparation

### myAnswers

- ◆ *Unit 1 Opener: Mrs. C and the Word of God* video
- ◆ *Building Blocks: Recording God's Word* video

### Poster Pack

- ◆ Unit 1 Memory Verse 1 Visual

### Resource Book

- ◆ Scroll Cards (1 set per pair)

### Student Book

- ◆ Topic 1 Study Pages
- ◆ Topic 1 Practice Pages
- ◆ 7 C's Bookmark

### Review & Assessment Book

- ◆ Unit 1 Memory Verse 1 Practice Pages

### Additional Items

- ◆ paper towel tube
- ◆ paper (1 sheet per student)

## Optional Resources

Only accessible on myAnswers under Digital Links and Digital Resources

- ◆ "And God Said" article
- ◆ "Books of the Bible" song
- ◆ Justin & Jessie Story: "Maps & Mysteries"
- ◆ *Kids Answers* "Hunting Down the History of God's Word" article
- ◆ "No Other Gods (Exodus 20:2-3)" song
- ◆ Scripture Scrolls Snack

## Scriptural Background

The New Testament is the history of Jesus Christ the Messiah and the founding of his church. It spans approximately 90 years, beginning shortly before Jesus' birth and ending with Christ's Revelation to John. But how do we know the New Testament is true?

First, the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to recall, write, and interpret the life, words, and deeds of Jesus. Jesus said the Helper would come and would teach his apostles all things and bring to their remembrance the things Jesus said to them (John 14:26). The apostles would receive and record special revelation through the Holy Spirit who would guide them into all truth (John 16:13).

Second, the apostles were ordained by Jesus to spread the message of the gospel, and we have the writings from them and their close associates. Peter verified this emphatically when he wrote that they were eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty and heard the voice of God acknowledge the beloved Son with whom he was well pleased (2 Peter 1:16–18).

As the New Testament letters began to be gathered and read throughout the church, we find evidence that they were already being described as "Scripture." For

instance, in 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7, indicating that he considered Luke's writings to be on par with those of Moses. The Holy Spirit directed these various writers to produce the inspired original manuscripts of the New Testament (2 Peter 1:19–21).

These writings were then spread throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa as copies were transferred among local churches. The collection of writings was acknowledged and used as a source of teaching by early leaders—including those we call the church fathers. In the first and second centuries, there was some disagreement about which writings should be included in the canon—the official list of the inspired texts—but these differences were discussed and resolved as the true writings from the Holy Spirit were made clear and acknowledged.

Now God's Word is closed. We can be confident that the 27 books of the New Testament combined with the 39 books of the Old Testament is the completed Word of God. God clearly warns us that we are NOT to add to his Word or take away from what is written (Revelation 22:18–19).

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Although we do not have the original inspired manuscripts, or autographs (the documents penned by the authors), of the New Testament, we do have many documents that were copied from those originals. But if all we have today are copies of copies, wouldn't there be a few copying mistakes?

Yes, but having lots of copies is a good thing. We have so many copies of the New Testament writings that we can compare them and understand where the errors were made during the copying and what the originals said. Most of the errors, which are called variants, are very easy to correct or are insignificant.

For example, sometimes phrases got switched (e.g., Christ Jesus vs. Jesus Christ) or there are variant spellings (like honor and honour in English). Some areas are more difficult to deal with, but we have thousands of documents to compare to help us understand what the original manuscripts said. This is called textual

criticism and gives us great confidence in the Bible we already trust by faith.

Manuscripts were written on animal skins, papyrus, and various early forms of paper. That means that the originals would have deteriorated, and the manuscripts we have are in various states of decay, with only a few being complete. The printing press allowed copies to be made much more quickly and with fewer errors, but these are not technically considered manuscripts since they were not written by hand. There are over 5,800 partial or complete manuscripts in the original Greek language, around 10,000 in Latin, and 9,000 in various languages like Coptic, Armenian, and Syriac, and new manuscripts are still being discovered.

The historicity of the Bible is obvious to anyone willing to fairly investigate it. It has been confirmed countless times by archaeology and other sciences. The Bible claims to be the Word of God, and we can trust it and the life-giving message of the gospel it contains.

## LESSON 1

## Prepare

## Memory Work/Catechism

See page 569 for ways to incorporate the **UNIT 1 MEMORY VERSE 1 VISUAL** and suggested catechisms.

## Introductory Activity

**Say:** *Today, we're going to meet Mrs. C. She and her friends, Dr. P, Archie the archaeologist, Matthew, and Maisie will be helping us learn about the 7 C's of History throughout the year. Let's see what Mrs. C has to teach us today.*

Play the **UNIT 1 OPENER: MRS. C AND THE WORD OF GOD VIDEO** on myAnswers.

**Say:** *Mrs. C taught us about the 7 C's of History and how they help us understand the Bible's chronology. God's Word tells the truth about events that have happened, are happening now, and will happen, and we can trust it to tell us the truth about God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. We're going to learn more about it today.*

## Study

## God's Word Inspired

Use the following information to help students understand why we can trust the New Testament. Before class, write 2 Timothy 3:16–17 on your instructional board.

- ◆ Have students open their Bibles to the New Testament and mark it with their **7 C'S BOOKMARKS**.
- ◆ Give each student a sheet of paper. Have students copy 2 Timothy 3:16–17 from the board. Explain that a **manuscript** is a handwritten document. **Say:** *Manuscript literally means "written by hand," and that's how the New Testament was first written—by hand by different writers.*
- ◆ Explain that the authors of the New Testament wrote their eyewitness record about Jesus on animal skins, papyrus, or other kinds of paper. We don't have the very first manuscripts anymore, but when people today read and compare all the manuscript copies, they can figure out the message of the original authors.
- ◆ Emphasize that we don't have the original manuscripts anymore by erasing the verse on the board. Have two students collect the copies the class made of the verse. Have students use the copies to confirm the original text and write the verse back up on the board.
- ◆ Reinforce that the manuscript copies of the New Testament can be compared to each other to determine what the original said.
- ◆ Have students read the sentences on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES**: "God preserved thousands of New Testament manuscript copies. We know what the original message said by comparing copies."
- ◆ **Say:** *Many people wonder how we can know the New Testament is true. Let's read what Jesus told his apostles before his death when he knew he wouldn't be with them much longer.*
- ◆ Read John 14:25–26 aloud. **Ask:** Whom did Jesus mention the Father would send in his name? *The Helper, the Holy Spirit.* **Ask:** What two things would the Holy Spirit do? *Teach them in all things and help them remember what Jesus had said.* Explain that the Holy Spirit would be a teacher and a helper as the disciples wrote about Jesus' time on earth.
- ◆ Read John 16:13 aloud. **Say:** This Spirit of truth is the Holy Spirit whom Jesus was talking about in John 14:26. **Say:** *Jesus was telling his apostles that the Holy Spirit would speak what Jesus had spoken and guide them to know the truth and to understand things that would happen later.* Have students read the sentences on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES**: "The Holy Spirit helped the writers of the New Testament remember what Jesus said and write the truth."
- ◆ Remind students that the Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Trinity. The Trinity refers to the three persons in the one true God. **Ask:** Who are the three persons of the Trinity? *God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
- ◆ Have students look at the **ATTRIBUTES OF GOD POSTER**. **Ask:** Which attribute of God means that he knows everything? *Omniscient.* **Ask:** Which attribute of God means that he does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*
- ◆ Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 aloud. **Say:** *God-breathed means that God directed the writing of the Bible perfectly, without mistakes. Jesus himself, God the Son, promised the apostles that God the Father would*



send the Holy Spirit to help them write the truth so that people like us could know all about him. Since God doesn't make mistakes and since he was the one guiding these writers, we know the New Testament is true. Have students read the sentence on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES**: "We know the New Testament is true because it is God-breathed."

[Note: Do not send Study Pages home until entire topic is complete. This is true for all topics.]

## 7 C'S CHRONOLOGY

- ◆ Remind students of the 7 C's of History using the **7 C'S OF HISTORY EXPANDED TIMELINE**.
- ◆ **Ask:** Which "C's" took place in the Old Testament? *Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion.*
- ◆ **Ask:** Which "C's" are about the message of the New Testament that the Messiah has come? *Christ and Cross.*
- ◆ **Ask:** Which "C" is still in the future? *Consummation.*

## Understand

### Find the Missing Word

Divide students into pairs. Give each pair a set of **SCROLL CARDS** to cut out. Explain that some cards have the sentence, and some cards have the missing word. Have the pairs race to match the missing words to the sentences.

- ◆ God preserved (*thousands*) of New Testament manuscript copies.
- ◆ We know what the original manuscripts of the New Testament said by comparing (*copies*).
- ◆ (*The Holy Spirit*) helped the apostles write the truth.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit helped the apostles (*remember*) what Jesus said.
- ◆ Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of (*truth*).
- ◆ The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the (*Trinity*).
- ◆ The (*Bible*) is God-breathed.
- ◆ We know the New Testament is true because God directed the writing of the Bible perfectly, without any (*mistakes*).

## Student Study Page

### Study Page

God preserved thousands of New Testament manuscript copies. We can know what the original message said by comparing copies.



The Holy Spirit helped the writers of the New Testament remember what Jesus said and write the truth.

We know the **New Testament** is true because it is **God-breathed**.



1

1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Study Page

Use the **Word Bank** to fill in each statement.

#### WORD BANK



John wrote his testimony so others would believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Peter and the other apostles were

eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.



Paul was specially chosen by God to write many books in the New Testament.

All the writers of the New Testament were guided by the Holy Spirit to write the truth.



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## LESSON 2

## Prepare

## Memory Work/Catechism

See page 569 for ways to incorporate the **UNIT 1 MEMORY VERSE 1 VISUAL** and suggested catechisms.

## Study

## Eyewitness Testimonies

Use the following information to help students understand how the New Testament came to be.

- ◆ Remind students that the Holy Spirit guided the authors of the New Testament to remember what Jesus said and write the truth.
- ◆ Explain that one way to confirm that something is true is to hear from someone who saw it happen. This person is called an eyewitness.
- ◆ Explain that the apostles John and Peter were disciples and very close friends of Jesus. They were both eyewitnesses to Jesus' life on earth.
- ◆ Have two students come to the front with their Bibles to play the apostles John and Peter. Interview them with a “microphone” (paper towel tube or similar) using the following questions.
  - » **Ask:** John, were you an eyewitness of Jesus? Have “John” read John 19:35 aloud. Explain that when someone gives a **testimony**, he is telling others what happened to him or what he saw with his own eyes. **Ask:** How did John describe the testimony he wrote about Jesus? *It was true.*
  - » **Ask:** John, why did you write down your testimony about Jesus? Have “John” read John 20:31 aloud.
  - » **Ask:** Peter, were you an eyewitness of Jesus? Have “Peter” read 2 Peter 1:16 aloud. Explain that a **myth** is a made-up story. Peter was saying that what he and the other New Testament writers wrote weren't made-up stories—it was all true. **Ask:** Who was Peter writing about? *The Lord Jesus Christ.* **Ask:** What did Peter say about himself and the other disciples? They were what? *Eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty.*
  - » Have “John” and “Peter” return to their seat.
- ◆ Have students finish the first sentence on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES:** John wrote his (*testimony*) so others would believe Jesus is the Son of God.
- ◆ Have students finish the second sentence on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES:** Peter and the other apostles were (*eyewitnesses*) of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- ◆ Explain that we can trust the New Testament writings about Jesus because eyewitnesses, or friends of eyewitnesses, wrote about the things that really happened. They walked and talked and ate and prayed with Jesus. They saw his life, death, and resurrection. They were Jesus' friends.
- ◆ **Say:** *There was another writer of the New Testament who didn't start out as a friend of Jesus. Saul, later the Apostle Paul, hated and persecuted people who believed—until Jesus appeared to him. Then he repented and became a faithful follower of Jesus, preaching the gospel and starting churches in many cities. Paul was chosen by God to spread the gospel, teach the early believers in the churches he started, and write many books in the New Testament (called epistles).*
- ◆ Read 2 Peter 3:15–16 aloud. **Ask:** What word does Peter use to describe Paul's writings? *Scriptures.* Explain that Scriptures is another word for the Bible, the Word of God. By calling Paul's letters “Scriptures,” Peter was saying that God the Holy Spirit helped Paul write the truth just he had helped the other apostles. Have students finish the sentence on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES:** Paul was specially chosen by (*God*) to write many books in the New Testament.
- ◆ **Say:** *We can be sure the New Testament is true! The authors of the New Testament were either eyewitnesses to Jesus' life, like John and Peter, or close friends of the apostles. Others, like Paul, were specially chosen by God, who guided them to write what he wanted them to. All of them were guided by the Holy Spirit and testified that the words they wrote were true.* Have students finish the sentence on the **TOPIC 1 STUDY PAGES:** All the writers of the New Testament were guided by the Holy Spirit to write the (*truth*).

## Understand

Complete one or both of the following activities.

### Practice Pages

Have students complete the **TOPIC 1 PRACTICE PAGES**. Answers are shown below.

### Building Blocks Video

To help review the topic, have students watch **BUILDING BLOCKS: RECORDING GOD'S WORD**, which is accessible on myAnswers.



### CORNERSTONE QUESTIONS

Have students discuss the following questions related to the lesson.

- ◆ What does it mean to say that the Bible is God-breathed? *The Bible is inspired by God. All the writers of the Bible were guided by the Holy Spirit to write what God wanted.*

- ◆ How did the New Testament come to be? *God chose men to write the inspired text of the New Testament by the power of the Holy Spirit. The authors of the New Testament were either eyewitnesses to Jesus' life on earth or close friends of the apostles.*
- ◆ Why can we trust that the New Testament we have today is the same message as the original manuscripts? *God preserved thousands of New Testament manuscript copies. We know what the original message said by comparing copies.*

## Apply

Ask students these questions to help them connect the topic to everyday situations.

- ◆ What can you say when someone tells you that the Bible is just a bunch of made-up stories? *The Bible is God's Word, and God cannot lie. The historical accounts in the Bible really happened.*

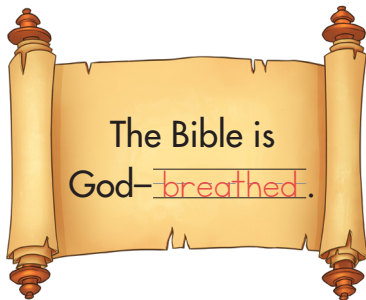
## Student Practice Page

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1

### Practice Page

Unscramble the letters on the manuscript copies to find out what the original message said.



Circle the answer.

How many New Testament manuscript copies do we have?



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

1

### Practice Page

Circle what the authors of the New Testament wrote. Put an X on what the authors did not write.



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- ◆ What can you say if someone asks you how we can trust that the Bible is true? *The Bible is God’s Word, and God cannot lie. There are many forms of evidence that confirm the truth of the Bible such as fulfilled prophecies, the reliability of the ancient manuscripts, archaeological evidence, and the testimonies of changed lives.*

## Assess

To assess students’ understanding of the topic, consider the following options.

- ◆ Evaluate students’ **TOPIC 1 PRACTICE PAGES**.
- ◆ Ask students the Cornerstone Questions.
- ◆ Complete the **UNIT 1 MEMORY VERSE 1 PRACTICE PAGES**.



## ENHANCE TOPIC 1

- ◆ Reinforce the impact of eyewitness testimony. Have students write a 2–3 sentence eyewitness testimony of something they’ve experienced (vacation, birthday, activity, performance, etc.). Divide the class into groups and allow students to share with each other their testimonies. Choose a student in each group to read Peter’s testimony to Cornelius in Acts 10:39–42 aloud. Emphasize that the New Testament was written by eyewitnesses to Jesus’ life on earth.
- ◆ To help students connect the lesson topics to an everyday situation, read aloud the **JUSTIN & JESSIE STORY: MAPS & MYSTERIES**. Emphasize that God preserved multiple copies of the Bible so that people can compare them and know with confidence what God had written for mankind.



## ENRICH TOPIC 1

### Mixed-Up Messages Game

The Bible was written over a period of roughly 1,500 years by 40 different authors, yet miraculously tells one cohesive message. Emphasize the reliability of God’s Word by playing the classic game of telephone. Have students form a circle of chairs. Whisper a phrase to one of the students and have them whisper what they heard to the person next to them. Once the phrase has made its way around the circle, have the last student say aloud what they heard. The phrase should have gone through a few changes depending on the size of the class. Reinforce that humans can make so many mistakes when communicating messages, but God didn’t make any mistakes when he guided the writers of the Bible.

### Scripture Scrolls Snack

Reinforce that God preserved thousands of New Testament manuscript copies by having students make the **SCRIPTURE SCROLLS SNACK** on myAnswers.

### Language Arts: Fiction and Nonfiction

Help students see that the Bible is different from any other book by comparing it to other genres of writing. Explain that writing can be divided into two main categories, fiction and nonfiction. Identify characteristics of fiction and nonfiction and provide samples of both types of books that students have read, such as a fairy tale and a biography.

Hold up the Bible and emphasize that the Bible is nonfiction—it tells the true Word of God and records information about real people, places, and events. It is the only book written by God, it contains true information about events that have happened, are happening now, or will happen later. Have students write a nonfiction informational paragraph about how the Bible is different from all other books.

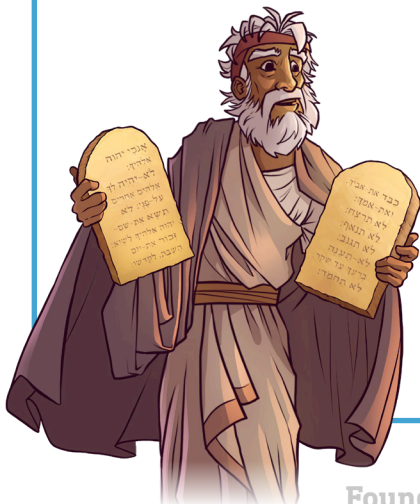
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Unit 1 Memory Verse #1

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Exodus 20:2–3

Draw a picture to help you remember the verse:



## Study Page

God preserved thousands of New Testament manuscript copies. We can know what the original message said by comparing copies.



The Holy Spirit helped the writers of the New Testament remember what Jesus said and write the truth.

We know the **New Testament** is true because it is **God-breathed**.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Page

Use the **Word Bank** to fill in each statement.

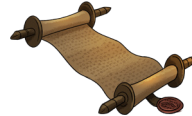
### WORD BANK



God



truth



testimony



eyewitnesses



John wrote his \_\_\_\_\_ so  
others would believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Peter and the other apostles were \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of  
Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.



Paul was specially chosen by \_\_\_\_\_ to  
write many books in the New Testament.

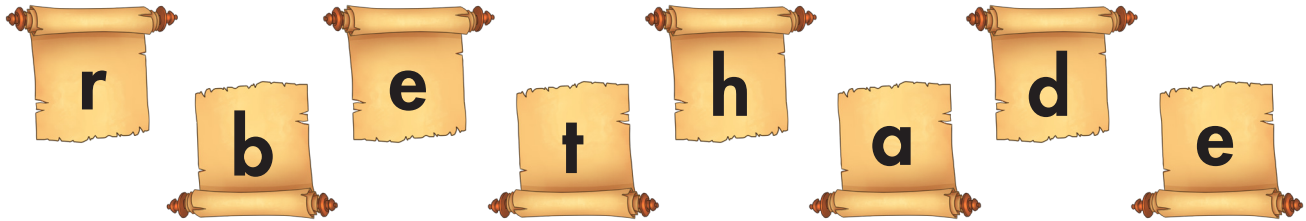
All the writers of the New Testament  
were guided by the Holy Spirit to write  
the \_\_\_\_\_.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice Page

Unscramble the letters on the manuscript copies to find out what the original message said.



Circle the answer.

How many New Testament manuscript copies do we have?

**Tens**

**Hundreds**

**Thousands**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice Page

Circle what the authors of the New Testament wrote. Put an X on what the authors did not write.



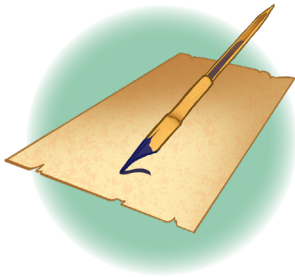
**eyewitness  
testimony**



**truth**



**myths**



**whatever  
they felt like  
writing**



**what the Holy  
Spirit wanted  
them to write**



**facts about Jesus'  
life, death, and  
resurrection**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Topics 1 & 2 Review

Use the word bank to complete each sentence.

comparing  
apostles

God  
Holy Spirit

eyewitnesses  
preserved

Holy Spirit  
God-breathed

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ thousands of New Testament copies.
2. We can know what the original manuscripts said by \_\_\_\_\_ copies.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ helped the writers of the New Testament remember what Jesus said.
4. We know the New Testament is true because it is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. All writers of the New Testament were guided by the \_\_\_\_\_ to write the Bible.
6. Peter, John, and the other apostles were \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
7. Paul was specially chosen by \_\_\_\_\_ to write many books in the New Testament.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ verified the original manuscripts of the New Testament.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Who is God? Choose the word(s) that best completes each sentence.

1. God is the Creator: he created the world in six literal, 24-hour (**days or years**).
2. God is omnipresent: he is (**everywhere or close by**).
3. God is eternal: he has (**always or never**) existed.
4. God is omnipotent: he is (**all-powerful or all-knowing**).
5. God is sovereign: he is in control of (**some things or everything**).
6. God is omniscient: he is (**all-powerful or all-knowing**).

Help Matthew answer his question by filling in the blanks.



God the \_\_\_\_\_



God the \_\_\_\_\_



God the \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the persons of the Trinity?

