Can We Trust the Bible? Week 3 - The Scarlet Thread Rich Barrett

Group Discussion Guide

Welcome everyone! This week we explored why the New Testament is not a scam, a conspiracy, or an embellished legend, but a collection of eyewitness accounts rooted in history, supported by archaeology, and preserved with extraordinary accuracy. The Bible is not just trustworthy, it is meant to be read, understood, and lived out.

1. WARM-UP QUESTION

- · What is the most ridiculous scam message you have ever received?
- · OR: Is there a moment when you realized you were being scammed? What tipped you off?

2. SCRIPTURE & DISCUSSION

A. LUKE 1:1-4 — AN INVESTIGATED FAITH

(Have someone read Luke 1:1-4 aloud.)

- What words or phrases stand out?
- · Why would Luke emphasize careful investigation?
- · Does anything surprise you about how the Bible describes itself?

B. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8 - EYEWITNESSES TO A RISEN JESUS

(Have someone read 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 aloud.)

- Why does Paul list eyewitnesses who were still alive?
- · What does this reveal about Christianity being rooted in an event?
- · Why would God choose eyewitness testimony as the foundation?

C. LUKE 24:25-27 — THE SCARLET THREAD

(Have someone read Luke 24:25–27 aloud.)

- How does Jesus describe Scripture?
- · What does it mean that all of it points to Him?
- Does seeing the Bible as one story change the way you read it?

3. DISCUSSION: EVIDENCE, DOUBT, AND TRUST

- What strengthened your confidence most today: eyewitnesses, archaeology, unity, or the resurrection?
- Did anything surprise you about transmission or translation?
- What keeps people from reading the Bible for themselves?
- How would you explain why the Bible is not like a game of telephone?

5. PRACTICAL CHALLENGE - 2026 NEW TESTAMENT PLAN

- What would it take for you to commit to reading the New Testament in 2026?
- Where do you need structure or accountability?
- · Who could you read with?

Thanks for leaning in tonight. You do not need every question answered before reading the Bible; you read because you want to discover truth. This week, open your Bible, read a Gospel, and ask: What did the eyewitnesses see? Let God speak through His Word.