

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR WHAT WILL YOU SAY?: The Decision is Yours

At some point in our spiritual lives, we'll have questions about the things we're called to believe. While that's not a bad thing, we do need to ensure that we're engaging these questions and not running away from them. When we approach these questions in a humble search for the truth, we will find that God is more than willing to reveal Himself to us so that we might deepen our faith in Him. Ultimately, though, the decision to believe or not to believe is left to us. What will you say?

"WHAT WILL YOU SAY?" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17) |** The Bible has an abundance of evidence for us to be certain that it is the Word of God, is truthful in everything it says, and can be trusted. This makes what it has to say about itself, its power, and its Protagonist that much more remarkable. When we realize these truths, we see that the Bible can be trusted with our whole lives and should therefore serve as our compass, guide, and source of truth.
- **Session 2 – Jesus (John 1:1-14) |** No one doubts the existence of a man named Jesus of Nazareth, but who this man actually is has caused conflict for thousands of years. Our faith hinges on Jesus being who He said He was, fully God and fully man. And when we look at the Biblical evidence, we clearly see that Jesus is the Son of God who came to Earth to live a sinless life and die in the place of sinful humanity.
- **Session 3 – Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) |** While there aren't many sources other than the Bible that witness to Jesus' resurrection, we've seen that the Bible is trustworthy and reliable. Therefore, we can trust it when it and other eyewitnesses say that Jesus was resurrected from the grave. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we can have great hope both in this life and the next, which should change how we live today.
- **Session 4 – Voices (John 10:1-5) |** In our everyday lives, we have to make thousands of decisions about all the messages and information we receive. How can we know what's right and what's wrong? This whole series has been leading up to this moment, where we must decide if we will choose to hear God's voice and act or remain idle. Out of all the voices we hear, Jesus' voice is the one worth listening to because His alone leads to everlasting life.

"WHAT WILL YOU SAY?" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

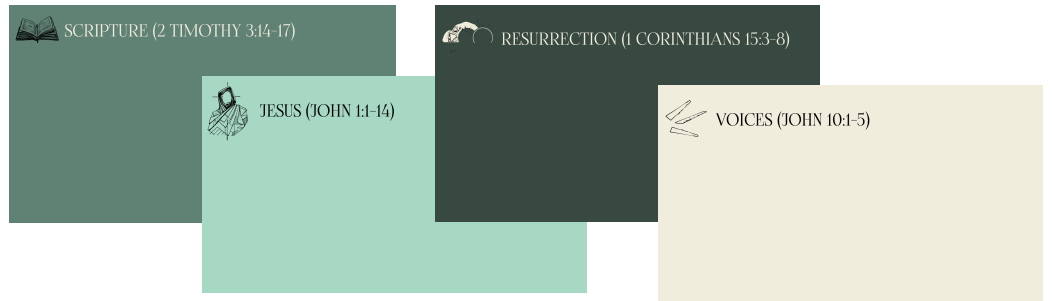
BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM
IMAGES**



**LOGO
TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

What Will You Say? Sermon Series | Session 1: Scripture

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | Lord, we know that You're ultimately in control, but many students may be outwardly or more secretly wrestling with doubts about You, Your Word, and the reliability of what's found in Scripture. God, as I preach these messages to my students, please find me faithful and help me to present this information in a way that challenges my students, shows them the truth, and allows your Holy Spirit to reveal the grace that's found and available to them in Jesus. I praise You for what I believe You are going to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

What Will You Say? Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Series Snapshot | *What Will You Say?* is a four-session sermon series that will invite your students into a deeper conversation about and belief in four core tenets of their faith. By establishing a Scriptural and rational foundation for these doctrinal topics, your students will be challenged to deepen and be equipped to guard their faith as they live in an increasingly antagonistic world.

Series Overview | At some point in our spiritual lives, we'll have questions about the things we're called to believe. While that's not a bad thing, we do need to ensure that we're engaging these questions and not running away from them. When we approach these questions in a humble search for the truth, we will find that God is more than willing to reveal Himself to us so that we might deepen our faith in Him. Ultimately, though, the decision to believe or not to believe is left to us. What will you say?

- **Session 1 – Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)** | The Bible has an abundance of evidence for us to be certain that it is the Word of God, is truthful in everything it says, and can be trusted. This makes what it has to say about itself, its power, and its Protagonist that much more remarkable. When we realize these truths, we see that the Bible can be trusted with our whole lives and should therefore serve as our compass, guide, and source of truth.
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What Will You Say? Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | The Bible has an abundance of evidence for us to be certain that it is the Word of God, is truthful in everything it says, and can be trusted. This makes what it has to say about itself, its power, and its Protagonist that much more remarkable. When we realize these truths, we see that the Bible can be trusted with our whole lives and should therefore serve as our compass, guide, and source of truth.

Key Takeaway | As the Word of God, the Bible can be fully trusted with your whole life, so it should serve as your guide, compass, and source of truth.

Scripture Focus | 2 Timothy 3:14-17

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration:* Faith before Understanding (a chair may be needed)

What Will You Say? Sermon Series | Session 1: Scripture

I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to this new series we're starting, *What Will You Say?* Now, you may be thinking, "that's kind of a weird title...what will I say about what?" Great question! Over the next four sessions, we're going to look at and study in depth a few of the most crucial aspects of our faith. And while God calls us to have faith in these things, that doesn't mean we won't have questions. Questions like, "Can I really trust the Bible?" "Was Jesus really who He said He was?" Or "was Jesus really resurrected on the third day?" Questions like these lead us to closely examine what we say we believe. And that's okay! Let me be clear in saying that having questions is not a bad thing.
- B. We can talk about these questions and study the Bible, which we certainly will do a lot of over the course of this series, but at the end of the day, you have to answer those questions for yourself. You have to be the one that decides whether or not you believe these things to be true, and that's been the case since the very beginning. In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asks His disciples a very pointed question, "*But who do you say that I am?*" That's where the title comes in. After seeing the evidence and listening to what I, and maybe a lot of you, claim to be absolute truth, the question will still be asked of you, "What will you say?"
- C. In this first session, we're going to ask the question, "Can I trust the Bible?" In order to answer that question, we'll spend some time looking at the reliability and uniqueness of the Bible and what the Bible has to say about itself to see why it can indeed be trusted. So with that being said, let's jump right in.

II. Tension

- A. So here's how I'm going to start this session and every session afterward. I'm going to tell you what I believe is true, what the Christian faith says is true, and then we'll talk about it for the rest of our time together. I believe that THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND CAN BE FULLY TRUSTED WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE, SO IT SHOULD SERVE AS YOUR GUIDE, COMPASS, AND SOURCE OF TRUTH.
- B. But why do I believe that? How can I be so sure? If I'm going to commit to living my life by what this book says, I must be pretty confident that it's not just any run-of-the-mill book, right?! I mean, plenty of other religious, moral, and philosophical writings out there trying to tell us how to be better people. So what makes the Bible different? Why should I base my whole life on *this* book?
- C. These are important questions! Because if you can't believe that the Bible is God's Word to humanity, it's going to be hard to believe anything else about Christianity. And if you can't believe that the Bible can be fully trusted to teach you what you need to know and guide you through life, then of course you're not going to listen to what it has to say. The Bible is essential to our faith, and if we were left without it, we'd likely be wandering around this world desperately searching for purpose, wisdom, direction, and, most importantly, good news. God has already given us all of these things in His Word, so let's take a look at why the Bible can be our source of truth in a dark world.

III. Scripture

- A. What we're going to do first is look at some reasons why the Bible is reliable and why it's unique. If I were to simply tell you what the Bible says about itself, you'd probably say something like, "Well yeah, of course the Bible is going to say that kind of stuff about itself." So once we've built a logical basis for believing the Bible, we'll turn to Scripture to see what it has to say for itself.
- B. RELIABILITY
1. The first way we can see the reliability of Scripture is that if you were to gather all the prophecies about the coming Savior written in the Old Testament, you would see that every single one of them was fulfilled in Jesus. There are hundreds of prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament, written by several authors across hundreds of years, and JESUS FULFILLED ALL OF THEM! This shows us that the Old Testament and New Testament both form one interconnected story, and that the claims it makes are tried and true.
 2. We can also look at the timeline of the Bible being written to see why it's so reliable. From the time Genesis was written to the time Revelation was written, approximately 1,500 years passed. 1,500!! And there are 40 different authors that wrote the books in the Bible! Yet, they all point to the same God. They all point to the same Jesus. They all proclaim the same message. THEY ALL SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE, AND THAT'S THE VOICE OF GOD.
 3. Finally, the third reason the Bible can be trusted as reliable information is the number of manuscripts we have from the original documents written thousands of years ago. There are copies of the original texts of the Bible that all back each other up and make it possible to almost precisely reconstruct the actual original texts. When you consider all the hundreds of manuscripts we have for every book of the Bible and how unified their message is across every copy, we can be sure that what we read in our Bibles today is trustworthy.
- C. UNIQUENESS
1. Now that we've covered some of the logical reasons for the reliability of the Bible, let's talk about what makes the Bible different from any other book. The first reason is the rawness that it's written with. Here's what I mean by that – the writing pattern at the time was to exaggerate military exploits and kings' greatness, but the Bible doesn't sugarcoat anybody's life. It talks over and over again about the failures and inadequacies of Israel. It bears all the truth about how evil some of Israel's kings were. Even in the New Testament, it doesn't shy away from telling the whole truth about people, even if it's ugly truth. The Bible displays even the "good" people's sin. Other books try to display the heroes as faultless and invincible, but the Bible doesn't do that at all.
 2. The second reason the Bible is so unique is that instead of asserting Israel's importance as the reason God chose them, it points us to the importance and power of God. The people of Israel aren't chosen because they're so great, powerful, and awesome. They're chosen *in spite of* their insignificance and irrelevance. The Bible points us to the power, mercy, and grace of God because He still chose Israel despite all its faults and flaws. And on top of that, Israel's history really kicks off with them being in slavery for 400 years...what nation, if

What Will You Say? Sermon Series | Session 1: Scripture

they were trying to tell anything but the truth, would record their history that way?

3. Finally, the third and biggest reason that the Bible is so different from any other book is that no other book takes sin and salvation as seriously as the Bible does. Scripture comes with a real, and sometimes uncomfortable, look at the sinfulness of all humanity and provides just one solution. The Bible is very honest about the complete brokenness of every single human being. It doesn't try to tell you that you're okay or if you're just a good enough person, you'll be all right. No, the Bible tells us that the **only** way we can be freed from our sin is for God Himself to take the punishment for our rebellion against Him. IN NO OTHER BOOK IS THE CONSEQUENCE FOR OUR SIN TAKEN SO SERIOUSLY, AND IN NO OTHER BOOK DOES GOD TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR US.
- D. So we've set the foundation for rational reasons that the Bible can be trusted. So if we can trust the Bible to tell us the whole truth and nothing but the truth, what does it have to say about itself?
 - E. Read 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17
 1. *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*
 - F. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, encouraging him to continue in his ministry, and he says that all Scripture is breathed out by God Himself. Even though it's written by people, God has inspired them to write what He wants to be written. In 2 Peter 1, Peter says that *"no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."* So God has sent the Holy Spirit to speak through all the people who have written a book of the Bible to write exactly what He wanted us to hear today. That's crazy! So when we say that the Bible is God's Word, it means that He is the source of these words. He has revealed them to people so that they would be written.
 - G. And SINCE THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD, THAT MEANS THE BIBLE REFLECTS GOD'S CHARACTER. So the Bible is entirely truthful because God is entirely truthful. The Bible is authoritative because God is the ultimate Authority over all the Universe. The Bible is sufficient because God is more than enough for you and me. IT MAY NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW, BUT IT DOES TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW. It may not explicitly list the answer to every question you could ever ask, but it does equip you to think through those questions as God would have you think through them. It does give you a better sense of the things God would say, think, and feel so that you can approach your life with His eyes, mind, and heart.

IV. Application

- A. So what now? What does that mean for you today? You've listened to all of this information, so is there going to be something that changes, or is everything going to stay the same? I have a couple of things that I think you should walk away with.
- B. BE OPEN-MINDED
 - 1. Many times, people say that the Bible isn't very clear or that it's too hard to understand. However, while that may be true about some things, more often, what the Bible has to say is hard to grasp because we don't like what it says. So as you approach the Bible and the wisdom and truth that it holds, be open-minded and willing to be challenged by what it has to say. The Word of God may not always tell you what you want to hear, but that doesn't make it less truthful.
- C. HAVE FAITH, SEEK UNDERSTANDING
 - 1. A lot of people try to approach the Bible by attempting to understand everything before they're willing to believe that it's true. Let me just go ahead and tell you that's not how it works. Understanding God and His Word is a lifelong journey, and you'll never have it all figured out. You have to take the leap of faith first, but you can be confident in that leap because God's character is true and trustworthy. Faith will give you more and more understanding, but understanding by itself will never fully give you faith.
- D. ***Optional Illustration: Faith before Understanding***
 - 1. Faith seeking understanding is a little like this. If I had a chair here in front of me and I wanted to sit in it, I would want to be sure that it could hold me up right? So I could try to learn everything I could about this chair. What material is it made from – wood, metal, something else? Where did that material come from? How strong is it? Who put this chair together? Can I trust them? How many people have sat in this chair before me?
 - 2. And while I could learn just about everything about this chair, I wouldn't experience whether or not it could hold me up until I sat in it. Faith seeking understanding, in this situation, requires me to sit. It requires me to do step outside of my comfort zone and relinquish control to something else in the hopes that it will support me.

V. Gospel

- A. Maybe you're here, and all of this is completely new to you. Or maybe you're realizing for the first time that the Bible can be trusted. What does the Bible have to say to you? Let me tell you.
- B. John 3:16-17 says, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."* Remember how I said that Jesus fulfilled every single prophecy about the Messiah? The whole Bible, from front to back, points to Jesus as the One who would save all of humanity from their sins. The Bible's story is all about how, even though we sinned against God and broke our relationship with Him, Jesus came down from heaven

What Will You Say? Sermon Series | Session 1: Scripture

to redeem us. Jesus came and lived the perfect, sinless life that was required to make a way back to God for the rest of humanity. But more than that, He took the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross because, as Romans 6:23 says, *“the wages of sin is death.”*

- C. Even while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. And then, 3 days later, He rose from the grave, having completely defeated sin and death. Now, all we have to do is repent of (turn away from/ask for forgiveness for) our sins, believe that He really is God, He really came to live on earth, He really died for our sins, and He really rose from the grave. Because Romans 6:23 doesn't just tell us what the penalty of sin is, it finishes like this, *“but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Jesus freely offers us a restored relationship with God, the forgiveness of sins, and eternal life if we only place our faith in Him. You won't find that kind of sacrificial love in any other book.

VI. Conclusion

- A. As we wrap up, I want to say two things. First, I want to encourage you to evaluate how you currently think of the Bible. Do you have any preconceived ideas that maybe aren't as true as you thought they were? Do you have questions that you want to be answered? Are you being open-minded and actually giving the Holy Spirit a chance to speak through the Word and move your heart? Hebrews 4:12 says that *“the Word of God is living and active,”* which means that just because it was written thousands of years ago, that doesn't mean it's outdated and lifeless. It's still powerful, and it still has the ability to speak to you and change your life forever.
- B. Second, I want to remind you of what I said at the very beginning. We can talk about all sorts of facts and pieces of evidence, but at the end of the day, you have to answer the question for yourself. And now is that time. You've listened to all of the reasons the Bible, as the Word of God, can be trusted as your source of truth and guidance. But do you believe it? What will you say?
- C. Let's pray.

What Will You Say? Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: Scripture

Series Overview | At some point in our spiritual lives, we'll have questions about the things we're called to believe. While that's not a bad thing, we do need to ensure that we're engaging these questions and not running away from them. When we approach these questions in a humble search for the truth, we will find that God is more than willing to reveal Himself to us so that we might deepen our faith in Him. Ultimately, though, the decision to believe or not to believe is left to us. What will you say?

Large Group Teaching Summary | The Bible has an abundance of evidence for us to be certain that it is the Word of God, is truthful in everything it says, and can be trusted. This makes what it has to say about itself, its power, and its Protagonist that much more remarkable. When we realize these truths, we see that the Bible can be trusted with our whole lives and should therefore serve as our compass, guide, and source of truth.

Key Takeaway | As the Word of God, the Bible can be fully trusted with your whole life, so it should serve as your guide, compass, and source of truth.

Scripture Focus | 2 Timothy 3:14-17

What Will You Say? | Session 1 Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. What's the easiest decision you've ever had to make? What's the hardest?

Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Why might the Bible be hard to trust? What makes it hard to trust for you?
3. When you think about committing to live your life by what the Bible says, what are the initial thoughts and emotions that come to mind? In your opinion, why do you think/feel those things?
4. What are you currently looking to for purpose, satisfaction, direction, and good news? Is that working well or not so much? Why do you think that is?
5. In your own words, what makes the Bible reliable? What makes it unique? Why do you think it's important that it has these qualities?
6. How seriously do you take the sin in your life? Do you think you take it too seriously or too lightly? How should what the Bible says about sin change how you view yours? Why do you think it's important that God took the punishment for your sins?
7. What do you think it means that the Bible reflects God's character? How should this affect how you approach the Bible?
8. What makes it hard to trust the Bible when it tells you what you need to know but not everything you want to know?