

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES to take this Personal Inventory about your potential responses to conversations that will come up as you work through this series. There is a range of reactions, from 1 to 5, described for you. Give each of the seven questions, below, the number of your response. Then add up the values when you have gone through them all.

1	2	3	4	5
Quite uncomfortable.	Makes me uncomfortable but I am willing to listen.	On the fence about this conversation.	I am open to the conversation.	I am quite comfortable with this conversation.
Please do not bring it up again. / I might need to leave the room for this.	Please don't ask me any direct questions. My faith works just fine for me and I don't want to cause any tension.	I want to learn more yet am a bit scared about what I might learn.	I am here to learn and process new information.	Finally! Let's talk about it!

\_\_\_ How do you respond to the suggestion that humans wrote the Bible, instead of God?

\_\_\_ Considering the *implications of the claim* that humans wrote the Bible, instead of God, evokes what kind of a response from you? For example:

The stories about David are, perhaps, more propaganda than historically accurate stories. On the surface you might be fine with this, but taken to heart, this might change the way you view whether you can trust those stories and/or bring into question what you *should* be envisioning when you think about David.

When it comes to the letters of Paul or the gospels themselves, there are similar elements that challenge reading them as *historically accurate*. What is your response, emotionally &/or mentally, to thinking about these possibilities?

\_\_\_ How would you respond to analyzing the Bible through the lens of it telling us what *the people needed or intended*, instead of thinking of it as *what God intended*?

\_\_\_ What is your response to the possibility of a conversation that might challenge the validity, for today, of something that we find in the Bible?

\_\_\_ How might you respond if someone in your group were to decide that an idea *that is true to biblical content*, which you have always believed to be “gospel truth,” is really an ancient idea that ought to be set aside?

\_\_\_ What if that claim was made solely based on their personal experiences, and not from insight gained from their minister or from a biblical scholar?

\_\_\_ While our cultural values may have changed, evolved over time, we continue to turn to scriptures with ancient patriarchal value systems. This reality applies to content from both Christian testaments. How do you respond to being asked to think quite seriously about this tension?

\_\_\_ **YOUR TOTAL**

**IF YOUR TOTAL IS 21 OR LESS**, this is likely to be a challenging video series for you – personally, emotionally, and perhaps even in terms of your faith. It can still be quite productive for you, but I also think it is important to be mentally and emotionally prepared for the kinds of conversations you will be having.

And do keep in mind that we are all on a journey when it comes to this topic and how we use the Bible to engage it. It is a given that you won't see everything the same way your friends and group leader do.

If you are comfortable sharing your responses, your group leader would benefit from knowing where everyone stands on these topics.