

# Is the bible telling the truth?

Yes

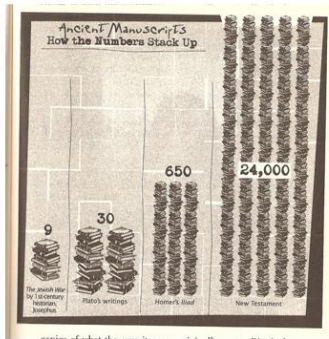
No

Maybe

Write this question on the board and ask the students to vote on which one they think. Then ask for the reasons why they chose what they did. Don't challenge anything at this point this is so that you can find out what they think.

When this is done present and explain the following four reasons why the bible is trustworthy.

## Number of Copies



## Archaeology

### Evidence One

Luke 3:1

Lysimias the Tetrarch - Tablets have been found bearing his name

### Evidence Two

Luke mentions:

- 32 countries
- 54 cities
- 9 Islands
- No mistakes - you can visit many of those places today, some are ruins, some are current cities

### Evidence Three

John 15:1-15

Jesus heals a man next to the 'Pool of Bethesda'. The pool has been found and was exactly as John described it

## Outside the Bible

### Josephus

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

### Tacticus

Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination when daylight had expired.

## Statistics

Taken from the 2006 census data ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au))

**Bible Users:** 6,743,399

**Agnostic:** 22,130

**Atheism:** 31,299

**Satanism:** 2,247

Ask the question again and record the votes. If anyone has changed their mind ask the way, if anyone has stayed the same ask the what hasn't convinced them yet. When this is done explain the implications of the bible being trustworthy. Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic or the Son of God.

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