CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?



DISCUSSION GUIDE

- 1. What did Dr. Craig A. Evans mean when he spoke of the "longevity" of manuscripts in the ancient world?
- 2. What kind of arguments against the reliability of the Gospels were discussed? Where have you heard these arguments before?
- 3. What impact did seeing the earliest manuscripts of the Gospels have on your ideas about the reliability of the Bible?
- 4. How would you respond to someone comparing the stories of the Gospels to a game of telephone? Is this an accurate comparison?
- 5. If the stories of Jesus recorded in the Gospels can be trusted, what does that imply about his claim to be the one who can forgive sins?
- 6. What is paleography, and how does it help us date biblical manuscripts?
- 7. Centuries ago, users of manuscripts—for example, the Codex Vaticanus—took notes in the margins and corrected other users' spelling errors. What are your thoughts on this? How does this practice shape our understanding of how the New Testament came to be?
- 8. What is a minimalist canon? How does this idea affect the Bible as we know it today?