

## The Jesus Accounts: Fact or Fiction?

Before the documentary starts read the questions so that you are familiar with them. The pictures alongside the questions appear on screen close to the beginning of each section of questions. (Note to teachers: It will be helpful to stop the documentary periodically to give time to complete the answers.)

While you watch the documentary

### Introduction:

- A. What question does the interviewer ask the people on the streets?
- B. There are five answers to the question. Tick any of the following that are used in the replies.

- 1) I haven't really looked into it, so I can't be certain.
- 2) Yes, the Bible is reliable.
- 3) I don't think we can be sure.
- 4) No way.
- 5) That's a difficult question.



### The Bible:

- C. Throughout the documentary the man in the cafe reads from the Bible, reading different books. As you see them write down the names of these books. Have a guess at the English translations of these names.

### Jesus:

- D. Write down two things Bishop Nazir-Ali says about Jesus

- 1)
- 2)



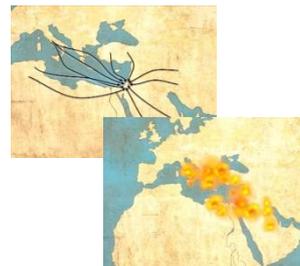
### The Early Church:

- E. A few months after Jesus' death and resurrection how many Christians were there?

F. Write down two places that some of the first Christians came from

1)

2)



### Communication and Travel:

G. Why was it relatively easy for Christians to travel around the Roman Empire?

H. How long could it take to get news **from Rome** to Jerusalem? Does the expert think this was fast or slow?



I. What did Christians send in letters to other Christians across the Roman Empire?

### Technological Progress:

J. What new invention did the first Christians develop?



K. What advantage did this new invention have over scrolls?

### The Four Writers:

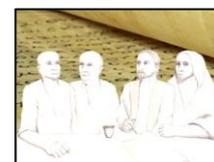
L. Name the four writers and one piece of information about each of them

1)

2)

3)

4)

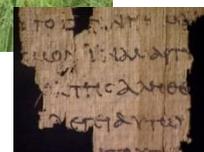


## Papyrus:

M. Write down two things about papyrus

1)

2)



N. How many ancient papyrus fragments or portions of New Testament have we found? Do the experts consider this to be a lot or a little?

O. How old is the oldest papyrus fragment of the New Testament that we have? Where can you go to see it? Which book of the Bible is written on it?

## Parchment:

P. How many ancient parchment codices (books) of the Bible have we found?

Q. What is parchment made of?



R. Write down two advantages of using parchment compared with using papyrus.

1)

2)

S. In which country did Constantin Tischendorf find the Codex Sinaiticus, an ancient Bible, and in which country can you see it now?

T. How old is the Codex Sinaiticus?

## Evidence that the Jesus Accounts are True Stories:

U. The following people from the stories of Jesus are mentioned in the documentary. Who were they?

1) Bartimaeus

2) Simon of Cyrene



V. Why does Bishop Nazir-Ali say that people trusted what Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had written?

### Use of the Jesus Accounts:

W. When were Matthew and Mark's accounts of the life of Jesus first used together?  
When was Luke's account being used?

- 1) Matthew and Mark
- 2) Luke



### Other evidence:

X. The documentary talks about two other pieces of evidence which can help us know what Matthew, Mark, Luke and John originally wrote. What are they?

- 1)
- 2)



Y. Name two languages the Bible has been translated into

- 1)
- 2)

### Conclusion:

Z. At the end of the documentary the narrator asks the question,  
*'When we ask a simple question – the accounts of Jesus written 2000 years ago by Matthew and John, his close friends, and by Mark and Luke, his first followers – are they the same as those we read in the New Testament today?*



What is his conclusion?