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## Hard To Believe Bible Passages – Discussion Guide

### ***Section 1***

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last Overflow Show.

Read Mark 24:34-35 Describe the level of reliability that Jesus assigns to his words and the ramifications of this statement.

### ***Section 2***

Go to [www.OverflowShow.com](http://www.OverflowShow.com) and listen to the 5-minute podcast titled “Hard To Believe Bible Passages.”

### ***Section 3***

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

Let’s list some Bible stories and passages that a skeptic would be apt to label myth, crazy, or at least hard-to-believe.

In the opening exchange, what did you think of the believer’s challenge to the skeptic that basically said: “So you’re saying that there is no God. Or, you will only believe in a God who can not do anything beyond human ability?”

Why is it wise to help the skeptic see that he is taking a position, and see the logical extension of that position?

Newman says that the skeptic and the believer have pre-assumptions associated with their positions. Contrast the pre-assumptions of both in relation to a miracle like feeding the 5,000.

Why is it valuable to articulate to the skeptic that his position is really, “God, or a god, could not feed 5,000 people.”?

What were some passages or concepts in scripture that Newman labeled “messy.” (If needed – Hints: cultural, believers’ failures)

Why do the presence of “messy” passages actually affirm the Bible’s honesty and reliability?

## **Section 4**

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days?

*One suggestion (if needed): Polling friends and associates. “My Wednesday night spirituality group is continuing to ask people’s opinions on various matters to see what people are thinking about spiritual matters. Could I ask you a few questions?” Allow the group to design its own questions.*

*If needed, here are a few examples:*

- 1) If there really is a god involved in this world, what would you guess are his limitations as far as power, influence, ability to change things, do what we would call miraculous things, etc.?*
- 2) Should a religion’s book of scripture only show the good things that its followers do, or should it also profile failures of its followers?*

*See if any conversation comes from this polling and look for an opportunity to tell the respondent a) about the pre-assumptions that both skeptics and Christians might have about a miracle, and b) about the Bible’s willingness to include its followers’ failures.*

The name of this superb book is CORNER CONVERSATIONS, by Randy Newman, available from Kregel Publications. Overflow highly recommends this book as offering extensive insights on how to discuss controversial spiritual issues.

For more information on difficult passages in the Bible:

[The Big Book of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation](#)

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