SESSION 2: Scientific Evidence

* Does Archeology Confirm or Contradict Jesus’ Biographies
* Interview with John McRay
* Digging for the Truth
* Luke’s Accuracy as a Historian
* Did Christianity Copy Earlier Myths?
* The Reality of John
* Puzzle 1: The Census
* Puzzle 2: Existence of Nazareth
* The Christmas Star
* Puzzle 3: Slaughter at Bethlehem

**Notes from Book**

Scientific Evidence – Does Archeology Confirm or Contradict Jesus’ Biographies?

Although true forensic evidence (DNA, blood, GSR, etc.) will not help confirm the authenticity of the Gospels, archeological evidence would. Who might be the authority that has personally dug, is an authority of ancient findings, possesses enough of dedication to scientific method to not jump to conclusions, and is able to take the wealth of information to come to an accurate hypothesis?

What does Dr. McRae say archeology cannot prove and what can archeology prove?

What evidence is there that Luke is an accurate historian in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts? What did Luke say in the beginning verses of Luke (1:1-4) that help us understand who he is as a historian?

What is the answer given by Alex McFarland to the claims of sceptics that Christianity ‘repackaged’ pagan mystery religion?

Luke’s accuracy was attested to in a statement on page 47 that tells why we should believe Luke, even when he said that Jesus’ resurrection was firmly established by many convincing proofs. What did the statement say?

The Gospel of John is much different than the synoptic Gospels. How do we know John is reliable?

What results did Strobel find in the three items Strobel targets?

Puzzle 1: The Census

Puzzle 2: The Existence of Nazareth

Puzzle 3: The Slaughter at Bethlehem

Could the star that led the wise men to Jesus even be possible? What answer did Strobel find?

**Notes from the Video**

Thomas Watson, in A Body of Divinity, said “ [Christ] was born of a virgin, that we might be born of God. He took our flesh, that He might give us His Spirit. He lay in the manger that we might lie in paradise.” Pondering that for a moment, how might that change your perspective?

In the Christmas classic movie, *A Christmas Story,* we remember Ralphie who desperately wanted a ‘Red Rider, carbine action, two-hundred shot, range model, air rifle’ for Christmas. Mom was against it because “he’d shoot out his eye.” Dad seemed more preoccupied with the lamp that looked like a lady’s leg. Christmas morning as all the gifts were opened, the BB gun was not there. Ralphie was heartbroken. Dad took him aside to show him one more present – the wanted BB gun! If you have considered what most of us have longed for in our lives – peace, protection, a relationship that can truly make a difference in all our lives. Consider and speak to what it means that our heavenly Father took us aside and has gift us the long-desired gift.

What are the arguments and answers given in video for the virgin birth?

Who is Mithras?

Why do we need to know the arguments and answers of the virgin birth?

**Group Discussion Questions**

What did you know about the myths and legends about the Christmas story before this study? Why do you feel this information is or is not important to you and your friends?