

## 4 The Bible - The authority of scripture

The following table is intended to provide a basis for thinking about the importance and consequences of authority in daily life. You may like to add to it from your own thinking and experience.

Authority	Why trust them?	Strengths	Weaknesses
Parents	Nature? Power? God's law	Care. Have experience	Human. Out of date?
Teachers/ Lecturers			
Police			

The next table follows the same pattern, but looking at sources of authority in religious belief.

Authority	Why trust them?	Strengths	Weaknesses
Parents	Respect, tradition, convenience?	Avoids upset? Continuity?	Could be wrong?
Personal revelation			
A church			
Someone like the Pope			

continued on the next page

Authority	Why trust them?	Strengths	Weaknesses
What you prefer			
My friends at school			
Other books			
The Bible			

What principles should determine whether or not we should accept a particular source of authority:



## The Bible

The Bible makes specific and testable claims to be the Word of God. This lesson does not set out to prove the truth of the Scripture; rather it aims to show that the Bible makes clear claims to be inspired by God and to have authority. The following passages are relevant:



Acts 3:18, 17:10-11, 18:9

2 Timothy 3:16

1 Corinthians 2:4-7

Hebrews 1:1-2

Galatians 1:1, 1:11-12

1 Peter 1:10-12

Ephesians 2:20

2 Peter 1:21

1 Thessalonians 2:13, 4:15

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

*What is the main reason you believe the Bible?*