

## Unit 1

### Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have any guesses as to why the scrolls were placed in the caves in the first place? (This will be covered later in the course)

*Consider the difference between hiding treasure for security and later needs, and hiding writings that were meant to be studied. What other possible reasons could a community like the Qumran Essenes have had for hiding the scrolls?*

*Don't worry if there isn't a lot of discussion on this question – it relies on some historical knowledge that will come out later in the course. For now, it will serve to plant the seeds of curiosity... and you might even get some original ideas, or hit on the reasons most scholars support.*

Your Notes:

2. Do you think it would have been better to let the general public have access to the untranslated, unstudied scrolls prior to their examination by the scholars?

Give some reasons for your opinion - or perhaps some pros and cons of each possibility.

*A few ideas to consider might be: (Pros) More people could see them sooner, more scholars could help to reassemble and translate them. (Cons)*

*Conspiracy theories, mistranslations, purposeful misleading, supporting own theology, funding expert study, errors in reconstruction.*

Your Notes:

3. If your group already has a Bible that you use, why bother looking at documents from Jesus' day and the time of the early Church?

*There is an argument to be made that it would be of no real purpose. Since the current form of Scripture is accepted on faith, what is the purpose of learning about its origin, original nature, or development over time? Some would also say that the Holy Spirit teaches us internally, and so learning anything outside of Scripture itself, in its current form, is useless.*

*On the other hand, greater understanding of the original form of the Scripture and how it was chosen, used, and passed along, may give insight and richness to it. Understanding the culture of the day could increase understanding of the Scriptures themselves. It can even increase enjoyment of reading and learning about the Bible.*

*It can also be encouraging that Scripture has changed very little over the two thousand years since Jesus' day, despite the time and conflict that have passed.*

Your Notes:

