



Chapter 5 Leader Guide - Respect the Chain of Custody

Cold Case Christianity for Kids

Prepare Yourself:

Read the following sections in *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*:

Chapter 8 - Respect the "Chain of Custody"

Chapter 13 - Were They Accurate?

Read the following section in *Cold-Case Christianity for Kids*:

Chapter 5 - Respect the Chain of Custody

Important Concepts In This Chapter:

In this chapter, we step out of the adult book sequence in order to better accommodate the skateboard narrative. The "chain of custody" is an important concept and a unique way to present the history of the early Church and the transmission of the New Testament. Read both of the adult chapters, then help your kids understand the concept and how to apply it. The information from Chapter 8 of the adult book will help you understand the general concept we've illustrated with the skateboard chain of custody in the kid's book. The information from Chapter 13 of the adult book will provide you with more than enough information to help you introduce your kids to the students of John who form the *Biblical* chain of custody. If your kids are interested, tell them more about Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus and Hippolytus. You can also show them the two other Biblical chains of custody from Paul and Peter.

Good Questions to Ask:

"Why is it important to be able to trace who handled the skateboard? Why do we call this list of people a 'chain of custody'?"

"Why is it helpful to *draw* the 'chain of custody' for the skateboard (or for the gospels)?"

"Why do we need to trace the chain of custody for the New Testament gospels?"

"Why are the early Church leaders important to us as we try to figure out if the story of Jesus was changed?"

"Which end of the 'chain of custody' is more important to understanding if anything was changed? Why is this the case?"

"Why do you think some people who deny the truth of the Bible think the Gospels were changed over time, even though we can prove they weren't?"