

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals

"Can I Trust the Bible?"

January 10-11, 2015

For Starters

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or raised questions?
2. When it comes to conversations with "skeptics" how do you engage the person and how capable do you feel? What do you struggle with and where do you want to grow?

Digging In

1. Read Luke's introduction (v 1:1-4). What does Luke say he is doing, what is his methodology, what are his sources and why is he writing?
2. Luke makes a strong case for Jesus being the Son of God, in fact it is his claim as Messiah that leads to his arrest and crucifixion. He was punished for blasphemy (claiming to be God). Do you agree? Look up Luke, verses 1:32, 35, 43; 2:11; 4:41; 5:20-25; 9:35; 22:66-71; 24:1-11.
3. From the very beginning, Luke tells us that his Gospel fulfills the predictions made beforehand in God's greater story (through the prophets). Using the account of his crucifixion, note the specificity and detail given as far back as 1,000 years beforehand. Compare Luke 23:26ff (and the other gospel accounts) with Zech 11:12; Ps 22:16; Is 53:12; Ps 22:18; Ps 22:14, 34:20 Amos 8:9; Is 53:9; Ps 16.
4. Luke is making the case that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God and as God's son, His take on the Bible is important. What does Jesus say about the Old Testament scriptures (Genesis - Malachi) in Luke 24:27-32, 44-46?
5. Why was the Bible written? Look up Romans 15:4 and 2 Tim 3:16-17?

Bringing It Home

1. As a group, work through responses to the following criticisms: the Bible is full of myths, contradictions and errors, the Bible is outdated regarding human sexuality, repressive toward women and intolerant.
2. Marc shared that it's one thing to say the Bible is reliable and another thing to actually trust it. Where are you trusting God's Word right now and how is that impacting your life? Where are you finding it hard to "take God at His Word?"
3. What steps can you take to make the Bible a greater part of your life?

Resources

- Tim Keller, *The Reason for God* - belief in the age of skepticism (chapter 7)
- Daniel Wallace - <http://danielbwallace.com/2014/12/28/predictable-christmas-fare-newsweeks-tirade-against-the-bible/>
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (very accessible)
- Sermons - *Is the Bible Reliable?* and *Doesn't Science Disprove the Bible?* by Pastor Marc Maillefer - October 2008 at doorcreekchurch.org

Adopt a Teacher Tip Week #13: Winter is here! See if your teacher has any specific needs for new or gently used hats, gloves, jackets or socks in their classroom. This could be a great way to get your whole group involved in providing something for the classroom. Contact Karrah for more information at kmesser@doorcreekchurch.org

Life Groups: Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you're interested in joining a Life Group or learning more, contact Deb at dmiller@doorcreekchurch.org