



Community Group Discussion Guide

November 9, 2104

Week 3 | Can I Have Confidence in the Bible?

Selected Scriptures

Introduction

From its beginning the early Church faced intense opposition. Read any one of the letters to these men and women who were among the first to follow Christ and you can't miss the extreme challenge that was theirs to persevere through persecution.

Read these same letters and you'll find repeated encouragements for these believers to not only persevere, but to also be wise and bold in sharing their faith. A good example is what Peter wrote in the third chapter of his first letter:

Even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be afraid. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
1 Peter 3:14-15

What Peter is taking about here is apologetics. It's equipping ourselves so we're able to give a clear explanation and convincing defense of what we believe. This is what we'll be doing in this five week series we've title "Prepared."

Questions for Study

1. Which of the following views describes how many in our American culture approach the Bible? Explain why you answered the way you did.
 - As a skeptic – lots of questions, often critiquing the Bible more than learning from it
 - As an outdated book that doesn't really apply to us anymore
 - Intimidated by the Bible because they don't feel they know how to study it (even though they may want to)
 - With confidence, looking to the Bible for truth
 - Other
2. Read over these attitudes again. Which one describes how you personally approach the Bible? Why?
3. Summarize what Jeff shared about the unity of Scripture. How can this truth give us confidence in the Bible?
4. How does the historical reliability of the Bible support the confidence we should have in it?
5. Share ways the Bible has proven itself to be relevant in your life – think especially in terms of individual verses that have ministered to you and/or how applying the Bible's message has shaped you personally, in meaningful ways.
6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. According to this verse, who is the primary Author of Scripture? How does remembering who Scripture is FROM give us confidence in its message?
7. This week was all about showing that we should have confidence in the Bible as the Word of God. What does living with a confident view of the Bible look like in very practical terms? If you're not in the habit of reading God's Word daily, what sort of impact might this habit have on your life?
8. What else – either directly from the sermon or something related to it – were you hoping to discuss? Consider especially questions you still have and/or major take-aways from this week's message.
9. A goal of this "Prepared" series is to equip ourselves so we're able to give a clear explanation and convincing defense of what we believe. Review what we've covered in this series so far. How has what you've learned helped towards this goal? Have you had any chances to discuss what you've been learning with people who don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ?