

Confidence | Psalm 119:81-120 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

January 13th/14th, 2024

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story. Set up a rotation.

- 1) Share one highlight from 2023.
- 2) Share one hope for 2024.

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

- 1) **Read portions of Psalm 119:81-120.** Maybe have a member choose one of the five paragraphs.
- 2) What stands out to you from these verses? How is God's Word described?
- 3) God gave us the scripture to lead us to Jesus. How do words and concepts like "rescue" and "salvation" in the Old Testament (Psalm 119:81) point to Jesus?
- 4) When have you diligently sought God in the scriptures? What was the result?
- 5) **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17** God gave us the Bible through people and process. What does it mean that God inspired the original writers of the Old Testament?
- 6) In 1947 scrolls of Old Testament books from near 200 BC were found in caves by the Dead Sea. The wording is identical to the Hebrew scrolls we have from near 1000 AD. How does that make our present translations more reliable copies of the originals? Why does that matter?
- 7) Even with all the manuscript evidence, some people reject the trustworthiness of the Bible. What do you think is the underlying reason? How can you help someone with doubts about the Bible to consider Jesus?
- 8) A counsel of 70 scholars near 200 BC determined which writings would be contained in the official scriptures. Do you think that process could have been inspired by the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? (Ps 119:89)
- 9) Jesus and his apostles quoted from and affirmed the Old Testament books that we read today. How does that give you confidence in the Bible's trustworthiness? (Luke 24:27,44)
- 10) In the process of translation from Hebrew to Greek to English, there are some copy errors. Scholars acknowledge that none of these errors change the meaning of the texts, but some use this fact to reject the Bible's authority. How does it make you feel? How would you answer someone with this view?
- 11) Was there anything from the Live it Out or from the sermon that stands out to you?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God's voice.

- 1) Lord, "What can I do to develop a passion for reading your Word?"
- 2) Lord. "How can your word be more of a lamp to my feet and a light to my path?"