

Confidence | Psalm 119:121-160, Luke 4:16-21
January 20th/21st, 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) What is your favorite snow activity?
- 2) What memories do you have involving snow? (Travel, recreation or driving)

Study Questions

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

The authority of the scriptures rests on Jesus

- 1) Read Luke 4:16-21. Why do you suppose Jesus chose these words to read? How did they identify him to the crowd? What authority does His identity command? (see also John 8:58)
- 2) How did Jesus demonstrate his authority over creation? Recall some of his miracles.
- 3) How did Jesus demonstrate his authority over the religious leaders? Recall any of his conversations. (Nicodemus -Jn 3, spoke with authority -Luke 4:32, Cleansing the temple - Jn 2:13-22)

We have the scriptures God intended us to have.

- 4) **Read Ephesians 2:19-22.** How are the apostles and prophets a foundation for faith?
- 5) **Read John 14:26.** Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would be at work to help the apostles remember. How confident were Paul and Peter in what they taught and wrote? (1 Cor. 14:37 and 2 Peter 3:16, 1 Cor. 2:13)
- 6) **Read 1 John 1:1-4.** John is an eyewitness to much of Jesus' life and teaching. How does this give you confidence? Why does the martyrdom of each of the apostles help us trust their message?

The Scripture is the foundation for following Jesus.

- 7) **Read Psalm 119:121-128** When have you been grieved by people who break God's law? Do you tend to reach out with compassion or judgment?
- 8) **Read Psalm 119:129-136** In what circumstances have you truly longed for discernment and understanding of God's ways? How did He answer?
- 9) **Read Psalm 119:137-144** When have you, or another you know, been despised or looked down upon for following God's ways? What can help a person stand strong in that situation?
- 10) **Read Psalm 119: 145-152** The writer speaks of crying out and calling out to God who is near him. What do you find yourself crying out to God about the most?
- 11) **Read Psalm 119:135-160** In what ways do you "hear" God communicating with you?
- 12) What stands out to you from the sermon or from any of the Bible references? How will you apply it?

Responding to Jesus

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

- 1) Lord, "What is one area of my life where I struggle to submit to your authority?"
- 2) Lord, "Is the Bible the foundation for how I follow you?"