

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 18, 2009

Passage: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 1:19

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 1:16.** What are the false prophets that Peter is addressing here saying is a myth (2Peter 3:4)? What does the New Testament say about the coming of Christ (Matt. 24:27; 36-39; 1Cor. 15:23-26; 1Thess. 4:15; James 5:7-8)? If this is all a myth, what does Paul say about this very topic in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19?

(b) What is Peter talking about at the end of verse 16; who are the “we” and how were they eyewitnesses of His majesty (Luke 9:28-36)? What is Peter saying the Transfiguration showed them a future taste of? Or according to Peter here, what purpose did the Transfiguration serve?

(c) What is Peter using as proof of the truth of his claims about the resurrection and second coming of Jesus? Should we use similar proofs to show the validity of our faith (Phil. 3:8-9; Acts 16:25-30)? Why or why not? How can we use similar proof in establishing our faith? What are the dangers (Eph. 4:13-16; Matt 7:21-23)?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 1:16. Talk about why it is important that what we believe not be merely a myth? How can we be sure that this is not a myth? Do you know why the Bible is a trustworthy book? If you have questions, try reading a book such as *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* to get some answers for why the Bible is a book to be trusted. Pray that God would give you the faith to trust in the truth of His word and that He would show the power of His word in your life.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 9:2-7; Luke 9:34-35; Matt 17:1-8; 2 Peter 1:17-18.** What is it that Christ received from the Father on the mount of Transfiguration? What kind of picture does this retelling of the Transfiguration present to us (Ps. 2:7-9)?

(b) Why would it be important for God to bestow honor and glory upon the Son in such a way?

(c) What is often referred to as the “holy mountain” (Ps. 87:1-3; Is. 56:7; Zech. 8:3)? The Transfiguration does not actually take place on the Holy Mountain, but why might Peter refer to as such (Psalm 2:6)?

(d) *Family:* Read Psalm 2 and Luke 9:34-35. Talk about the links between these two passages. How does the Transfiguration fulfill the prophecy of Psalm 2? What are we waiting still to be fully fulfilled? How does the current partial fulfillment give us strength to believe that it will one day all be fulfilled? Remind yourself today in prayer the Jesus is the anointed King who is coming back.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 9:2-7; Luke 9:28-36; Matt 17:1-8; 2Peter 1:17-18.** What are some of the differences between all of these retellings of the Transfiguration? What are the similarities?

(b) Luke’s retelling calls Jesus “my Chosen One.” How does this link with Isaiah 42:1? How is this essentially the same thing as saying “My beloved Son”?

(c) Why do you think Peter was suggesting that they build tents/tabernacles for Jesus and Elijah and Moses?

(d) How does the transfiguration itself show that Christ is coming back? How does the Transfiguration partially fulfill Psalm 2? How is it still yet to be fulfilled?

(e) *Family:* Read Matt. 17:1-8 and 2 Peter 1:17-18. Why is it our tendency to be like Peter when he saw Jesus Transfigured to want to stay there for a long time? Are we ever going to live on a mountain top like experience for very long in this life? What about in the one to come? What are similar experiences of God’s glory like this supposed to make us think of/long for? Pray that the Lord would fill you with a holy longing for the return of His Son.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 1:19.** What is the prophetic word that Peter mentions here (Matthew 11:13; James 2:8)? How is it made more sure by what has just been said (Psalm 2:6-7)?

(b) What does the lamp represent (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23)? What is this dark place (John 1:3-5; 3:19; Rom. 13:12-13)?

(c) What does the dawning of the day represent in scripture (Matt. 4:16; Acts 2:20; 2 Thess 2:10; Romans 13:11)? And who is the bright morning star (Num. 24:17; 1Thess 5:4-9; Rev.22:16)? (*Extra credit:* What is the actual morning star?) What is fitting about Christ being the morning star?

(d) What does Peter mean by “the morning star rises in your hearts” (1Cor. 13:8-10; 1John 3:2; Rev. 21:22-23; 22:4-5; Isa. 60:19-20)? What comparison is thus made between our scriptures and when Christ returns?

(e) *Family* Read 2 Peter 1:19. Talk about the importance of scripture. What does it look like when a candle is lit in broad daylight? What does the same candle look like in a pitch black room? What kind of world are we in right now? How does this help us to anticipate the day when Christ will return? How important is the word to us now in light of the darkness around us? As a family, begin (if you aren’t already) to memorize the weekly verse above. It is good to always have a bit of the light with you at all times.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.** There are two ways verse 20 is translated. The first is given most clearly in the NIV (see also ESV, NET, TNIV, and NLT). How is this verse translated in this passage? What would Peter be trying to affirm in this translation? The second is given most clearly in the NKJV (see also NASB, HCSB, KJV). How is the meaning different? What would Peter be trying to affirm in this translation? More on this later.

(b) Verse 21 presents two ideas about scripture. (note: the same verb is used in both sentences. This is lost in translation. Same verb used in v. 17 when speaking of the voice borne to him). What is the first half talking about (Jer 14:14; 23:16; Deut. 18:20; Ezek 13:3)?

(c) What does the second part of verse 21 affirm (Deut. 18:15-22; 1 Cor. 14:32; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)?

(d) Back to verse 20. In Amos 7 and Daniel 7, who is it that interprets the prophecies given to them? In light of this and in light of the meaning of verse 21, which translation do you think fits the context better?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. What would happen to Old Testament prophets if they failed to listen to God (Deut 18:15-22)? Why is it important to know that prophecies are from God and not from man? How should we look at the Bible in light of this? Pray that the word of God would be a light shining in your hearts and reflected to others around you.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. What has stuck out to you this week? Do you take the scripture as important as Peter does? Do you think experiencing God’s glory and power is something we can experience today? Why or why not? If the Bible is likened to a lamp and Christ to the sun, what does this tell us about how much more there is to know about our God? Do you ever think you have God figured out? Pray that God would enable you to have a spirit of worship today as you go forward.

DATE: October 18, 2009

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The Foundation of Faith

“pay attention to the word...as to a lamp shining in a dark place”