



DISCUSSION GUIDE

“By the Book” – Why it is important we read the Bible well THIS WEEK: Luke 13:1-5

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

Do you know of anyone who has left “the faith”, or struggling to understand the purpose of faith? If so, what is it that they struggle with?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Why did Dave emphasize that it is important to read the Bible well? What is at stake for us in our day and age?
How can we read the Bible “poorly”?

Why is it important for you and me to have a better understanding of how to read and interpret the Bible?

Dave gave 6 examples (“memes”) – the Bible is anti-intellectual, anti-science, anti-woman, pro-violence and pro-slavery. These things circulate the internet in attempt to communicate that the Bible is self-condemning...see, this is written in the Bible, how can you argue with that?

-- What passages or issues come up when you read the Bible that are hard to explain? Talk within the group about them, how do others explain them? If you want, pull up the website gotquestions.org and search for an issue and see how they explain it.

-- How would you explain to someone else that is having a hard time understanding how these verses can be in the Bible?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 Peter 3:13-18]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How did Peter use a rhetorical question to explain his point? (3:13)

What did Peter write about suffering for what is right? (3:14)

What did Peter instruct his readers to be prepared for? (3:15)

How were these readers to give the reason for their hope in Christ? (3:15)

Why are believers to keep a clear conscience? (3:16)

When is it all right to suffer, and when is it a waste? (3:17)

What did Peter say about Christ’s death? (3:18)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How could suffering for doing right be a blessing?

How should we set Christ apart as Lord in our hearts?

How prepared are you to explain your hope in Christ?

What can you do to be better prepared for discussions about Christ with those who do not follow Christ? Or, how do you fill unprepared to explain and understand the Bible?

Why would it be important for us to be better equipped to know, understand and interpret the Bible within the current cultural moment we are living in?

Why does Peter describe the manner in which we share Christ should be gentle and respectful? How does this look in "real life?"

Why do you think Peter addresses our conscience and a willingness to suffer for doing good with "being ready to explain our hope in Christ?"

How has Christ's death and resurrection changed your life?

Apply It

What step can you take this week to become more prepared to answer questions about your hope and faith in Christ?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?