

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Peter 1:16-21, 3:14-18

## LEADER'S STUDY

### Being Sure

#### **2 Peter 1:16-21, 3:14-18**

#### **What is happening?**

The Apostle Peter is writing to encourage believers to be faithful. As in our day, there were many voices speaking many things, making it difficult at times to know what to believe. In 1:16-21, Peter reminds his readers that he had known Jesus personally. He'd seen His miracles, listened to His teachings, heard God's audible voice commending Him (Matthew 17:1-8/Mark 9:2-8/Luke 9:28-36), saw Him after the resurrection, and watched Him ascend to heaven (Acts 1:9-11). But because none of his readers shared those experiences, Peter reminded them that there is one thing even more reliable: God's written word. And that's something we *all* have access to! Peter's experiences can't be duplicated today, but we can believe just as confidently as he did—and even know Jesus personally—by seeing Christ revealed in the Bible. In 3:14-18, Peter speaks of Paul's epistles (which today make up almost half of our New Testament) and calls them Scripture. This confirms that the supernatural inspiration of Paul's letters was known from the beginning; we can be confident they are God's revealed truth. We might not fully understand everything they say, but we can believe them without reservation.

#### **Where is the gospel?**

Peter reminds us that the entire Bible is about Jesus and the gospel of redemption (Luke 24:25-27, 45-47). In the early pages (Genesis 3), we see how sin entered the world, and death as a result. The rest of the Bible either foreshadows, shows directly, or reflects the image of Christ's once-for-all sacrifice that paid for ALL sin and offers us eternal life when we follow Him in faith. The Scriptures also teach that this was done simply because of God's great love—not because we deserve it. It's such an amazing story! Those who know Him can't get enough of it. The more we know Him, the more we want to know Him more. And the more we learn of Him through the Scriptures, the more the Holy Spirit transforms us to be more like Him, so that we might more accurately reflect His image in our world (2 Peter 1:3-4).

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: Has my personal experience ever caused me to believe something that simply isn't true? Why might Peter have been so adamant about the rock-solid reliability of the Scriptures (Matthew 7:24-25)? Do I see reading the Bible as a chore, or as an opportunity to know Jesus better? Does it make sense to trust a source that sometimes says things I don't like, but that's been proven right for countless generations? How can seeing God's character revealed in the Bible make me more like Jesus? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

**Some helpful scriptures:** Psalm 12:6; 119:9-16, 89, 105; 160; Luke 24:13-48. John 1:14-18; 17:15-19; Ephesians 2:1-10; 5:1-2; Hebrews 1:1-3; 1 Peter 1:6-12. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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## INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 2 Peter 1:16-21, 3:14-18  
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word  
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-  
for-thought perspective. (The New Living  
Translation is particularly helpful with this  
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your  
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the  
gospel. Look for how this passage  
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

## POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your  
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer  
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or  
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of  
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture  
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are  
challenging to your current way of  
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about  
God and His character from this  
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you  
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and  
define them really clearly, then look at  
them in context with that definition.  
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture  
today?**

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**How is God calling you to obey, based  
on this passage?**

or

**What is your "I will" statement?**

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of  
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share  
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is  
often overlooked. If we can share it with  
someone else it means we really  
understand it, it cements it in our own  
minds, it makes us accountable to the  
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.  
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we  
pray about and how should we pray?**