



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

6 JANUARY

GOOD BOOK: UNRELIABLE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. 19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

COMING UP

13 Jan – Guest Speaker: Calum Miller
 16 Jan – Monthly Prayer Meeting
 21 Jan – The Bible: Myth or History?
 3 Feb – Guest Speaker: Sam Allberry
 10 Feb – Church Family Meeting
 18 Feb – Alpha starts
 27 Feb – Monthly Prayer Meeting

***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Jesus Stories. For more info see westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless.

GETTING STARTED

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we'll start our LG's by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He's doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. What ways have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.* those around you in recent weeks?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What are some common criticisms you have heard about the Bible? How did/do they make you feel?

2. What is the most precious thing you have read or had written for you (apart from the Bible)? Why should we be even more excited about reading the Bible?

3. In 2 Peter 1, Peter gives us good reasons to be confident in the Scriptures. First, he says what he and the other apostles are saying is based on eyewitness evidence. This means the gospels (first century biographies of Jesus) are historical. What supporting evidence can we use to illustrate this? *Hint:* anti-Christian historians e.g. Tacitus, Pliny, Josephus, and inclusion of first century specific details, e.g. geography (towns) and names.

4. In verse 19 Peter writes, "we have the word of the prophets made more certain". What does he mean? How can typology and prophecy demonstrate the remarkable consistency of this 66 books written by more than forty authors over 1,500 years? *Hint:* typology means shadows of Christ, pointing to Him, in the Old Testament, like the Passover Lamb in Exodus.

5. What do verses 20-21 teach us about the inspiration of Scripture? How should this increase our level of expectation of hearing from God every time we read the Bible?

6. Howard talked about the first time he opened a Bible, and God speaking to him through 1 Samuel 16:7. Share a time when God spoke to you through Scripture, an encouragement, challenge or correction.

NEXT STEPS AND PRAYER

If you have time, encourage people to choose one verse to study on their own for 10 minutes and then have a few people share what they heard God say.

Pray for strength to regularly read the Bible, greater revelation when doing so, and courage to defend the trustworthiness of the Scriptures.