**THE WIN:** We return to our series in 2 Peter. It is important that we continue to stress staying connected and caring for one another. Remember to keep regular communication open with your group about tangible needs that can be met. Please follow the “protocol” below for caring for needs:

1. Ask every week if there are any needs the group has
2. If a need arises see if you as a group can meet it
3. If the need is too big or too many reach out to one of the elders about the benevolence fund

Please be sure to watch the video on “Zoombombing” here: [Growth Group – “Zoombombing”](https://youtu.be/ltNdE6ou6j0)

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* **Good Friday** will be at 7:30pm on YouTube and Facebook. During the Good Friday service will be taking the Lord’s Supper in our homes. Please have the elements ready if you would like to participate.
* **Easter** will be at 10:00am on YouTube and Facebook.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

**After everyone has signed on to the Zoom call**:

1. Always start your meeting with a general “How is everyone doing?” Give people time to respond here.
2. **Icebreaker**: *What is one good thing you have done that quarantine has made possible?*

**DISCUSSING THE SERMON**

**Before discussing pray briefly, then SAY,** “We are back in our 2 Peter series. The title of the sermon was “Something Sure.” This first question is a very general question:

**QUESTION:** Did anything from the sermon stand out, challenge, or encourage you?

**QUESTION:** What is something you would say you feel very sure about? Why?

**QUESTION:** Why do you think the sermon was called “Something *Sure*”? What was said in the sermon that encapsulates the idea of “Something Sure”?

**After you have discussed the introductory questions SAY,** “These are great introductory thoughts to the passage that was preached. Let’s dig a little bit into what Pastor Mike taught us.”

**Then ask a volunteer to read the introduction in 1:16-21. After they read it SAY,** “This sermon was all about how the assurance and confidence we have in Scripture. Peter amazingly claims that the Scriptures is “more fully confirmed” (v. 19) that the eye witnessing of Jesus’ transfiguration. The reason being that Scripture was produced by the Holy Spirit working in the writers of the Bible.”

**QUESTION:** Why might someone consider it “amazing” or “surprising” that Peter makes this comparison between his eyewitness and Scripture? Explain.

**QUESTION:** Can you identify two distinct lights in this passage? How does Peter relate the two? Does one result in the other?

**LEADER TIP:** Light #1 – “lamp shining in a dark place”, Light #2 – “morning star rises in your hearts” which is Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:16) How do they relate? The “morning star” only rises in your hearts when you pay attention to the lamp. You pay attention to it until Jesus Christ (“morning star”) rises inside your heart.

**QUESTION:** It was said in the sermon that we get impatient with our experience with Scripture, but Peter says that we are to “pay attention” to Scripture “until” something happens. In what way have you found this impatience in your own life? In what ways have you experienced the “payoff” of “paying attention” to Scripture until transformation occurs?

**SAY,** “Pastor Mike mentioned in the sermon how no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. A lot of culture today has crept into the church causing people to relativize Scripture by making all interpretations equal and none of them more certain than the other.”

**QUESTION:** Have you either personally experienced this, seen it, or struggled with this idea?

**QUESTION:** What are some reasons you can think of for why we can actually have some certainty when interpreting and teaching the Scriptures?

**LEADER TIP:** this is based upon a philosophy known as “postmodernism,” which downplays our ability to know absolute truth with any certainty. In one sense this is true as we all have preferences and biases that influence us. But this is why we need to interpret the Bible in community and under the authority of well-studied leaders who treat the words of Scripture carefully.

**QUESTION:** Peter says that we are to pay attention to Scripture until Jesus (the morning star) rises in our hearts. That is an experience that is focused upon Jesus. What do you think are the implications of this for how we read the Bible, teach the Bible, and listen to sermons on the Bible? How does this protect us from moralizing the Bible and turning it into a book filled with snippets of inspirational quotes to “boost our confidence”?

**GOING DEEPER**

**SAY,** “At the end of the day, if each of us are not ‘paying attention’ to the lamp shining in a dark place (Scripture), we will be lost in this season of COVID-19.”

**QUESTION:** What is going to be your “grace-based plan” of action for how you are going to “pay attention” to the word individually on a daily basis? If you already have one, what do you currently do that would help everyone else in the group?

**LEADER TIP:** You may want to write down everyone’s plan, pray over it, and check in every week on how everyone is doing.

**PRAYER**

**Things to pray for this week. You can either take prayer requests or pray through the following points.**

1. Pray for continued endurance and longing for community amongst us
2. Pray for the elders to continue discerning the Spirit’s leading through this season.
3. Pray for our hearts to remain generous to sustain the ministry of the church