

Life Group Discussion Guide

Introduction:

Utilizing page 1969 in "The Moody Bible Commentary," prepare for the lesson by reading the explanation of this passage before your group meets.

Do you need reminders for yourself? If so, how do you go about setting reminders (i.e., phone, calendar, notebook, etc.)? If not, why do you think reminders are not needed?

What are some of your favorite myths and why? (You might consider myths from the ancient world like the 300 Spartans, Thor and Mjölnir, or Sisyphus constantly rolling the boulder. Or you might consider mythic animals like the Loch Ness monster, the Chupacabra, or Bigfoot.)

What is so fascinating about myths? What is better, a myth or a truth? Why?

Why is it important to believe and live from truth rather than a myth? How might we accidentally live in light of a myth, rather than the truth?

Head:

- Peter, in verse 12, says that his intention was to remind his readers of the qualities from the previous section (recall the seven characteristics that a Christian should supplement with their faith from verses 5-7). Why is it that Peter needed to remind his readers of these qualities? How might they have forgotten? In what ways have you forgotten these qualities?

- In verse 13, Peter says that it is right to stir these Christians up to reminder. What does Peter mean that it is right to stir them to reminder? Why is reminding fellow Christians a loving and gracious practice? What was the last thing a brother or sister in Christ had to remind you of? How did you respond to that reminder?

- Peter is sure of his impending death, as referenced in verses 14-15. What does Peter mean when he says he "will make every effort so that after (his) departure (the readers) may be able at any time to recall these things"? What happens if a Christian needs a reminder but doesn't have a person to help; how will they be reminded (consider the role of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God for this answer)?

- Peter says that he and the other apostles "did not follow cleverly devised myths when (they) made known to (these Christians) the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but (they) were eyewitnesses of (Jesus') majesty." How was Peter an eyewitness to Jesus' majesty? What myth(s) do you think Peter was talking about? Why would the Gospel be mistaken for a myth? Have you heard others speak about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as a myth or fable? How have you responded to that assessment?

Life Group Discussion Guide

- The answer to one of the previous questions is found in verses 17 and 18. Peter and the disciples were eyewitnesses to Jesus' majesty when they heard God the Father say "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Where in the Bible does this event take place (see Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, and Luke 9:35; consider reading these passages with the group to get a clearer picture)? What is the importance of Peter referring to the Transfiguration? Does Peter's personal experience with Jesus help provide you with comfort when considering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? Why or why not?

- As Peter concludes, he states "And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." What does Peter mean by this concluding section (Consider what D. Edmond Heibert says - "Peter seemed concerned about the inner attitude of those who await the glorious day of Christ's return. The truth that Christ is coming again must first arise in their hearts, like the morning star, giving inner assurance that that day is coming. Assured of His impending return, they will be alert to detect the gleams of dawn breaking through the darkness.")?

Heart:

- How are you prone to believe myths, half-truths, and outright lies over the Gospel? How important is it to have eyewitness testimony for the reliability of our common faith? What difference does it make on a daily basis that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is not a myth? If it doesn't make a daily difference, what can the group do to help you actively live in a way that it does make a difference?

- Has the Gospel begun to be like a lamp shining in a dark place or the morning star rising in your heart? If so, how have you meditated or dwelled upon that in the last week? What difference has that made in your interactions with God? With others? With yourself?

Hands:

- This week, what is one thing that you can apply from this passage that (by the grace of God) will make you think, behave, and live differently? And how will that impact those around you?

Conclusion:

- As we conclude, is there anything from Pastor Kevin's sermon that stood out to you that we have not yet discussed? Why do you think that particular thing stood out to you?

Pray:

Is there anything that you can pray for as a result of today's passage?
Spend time praying for one another's needs and requests.