

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 5, 2006

Passage: 2 Peter 1:12-21

Memory Passage: John 5:39

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) This week, we are celebrating and remembering the Reformation. There were five “*solas*” that formed the basis for the Reformation. *Sola* means “alone”. What are these five *solas* and what does each mean?

(b) Why was each important to the Reformation? Why are they important for believers today?

(c) **Read 2 Peter 1:1-4.** Who is Peter writing to? What do they have in common?

(d) What is their relationship with God and how did they come to this (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9)?

(e) What else has God given to us (2 Peter 1:4)? What effect should this have on our lives (2 Corinthians 7:1)?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 1:1-4 and Romans 1:16-17. Talk together about the Reformation. What is it? When did it happen? What were some of the major issues? How does it affect us today? How does a person become “righteous” before God? Thank God for those who were willing to risk their lives so that the gospel might be preached. Pray for those who are doing the same today.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 1:12-15.** What was Peter facing? How can you tell this from the passage?

(b) Compare this with Paul’s concerns in 2 Timothy 4:1-6 and Acts 20:20-25. What did Paul tell Timothy to do in 2 Timothy 2:2?

(c) What was Peter’s goal for them (2 Peter 1:12)? How is the Word of God essential for fulfilling this goal (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

(d) What description does James use for the Word of God (James 1:22-24)?

(e) What is the Word of God able to do that men cannot do (Hebrews 4:12)? Why were they written to begin with (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:10)?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 1:12-15 and Hebrews 4:12. What is the value of studying our Bibles? What does the scripture do for us? At the end of their lives, what were the main concerns of Peter and Paul? How could this be accomplished? What was Job’s attitude toward the Word of God in Job 23:12? Pray that God will give you an increasing hunger for His Word.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 1:16-19.** What warning do we often find in scripture (1 Timothy 4:4, 7; Titus 1:14)? What did Paul tell Timothy to focus on in 2 Timothy 4:1-4?

(b) In contrast to this, what does Peter claim about his testimony—why is it authentic (also 1 John 1:1-3)?

(c) What event was Peter referring to (Matthew 17:1-5)? What kind of testimony was given about Jesus?

(d) What kind of testimony does Peter say is *more* reliable (1 Peter 1:19)? Why is this so (Psalm 19:7-11)?

(e) How does he describe this word of prophecy? What does he tell us about its effects (also Psalm 119:105)?

(f) According to 1 Peter 1:19, how long are we to continue doing this? Why is it essential (1 Thessalonians 5:4-8; Ephesians 5:8)?

(g) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 1:16-19 and Psalm 19:7-11. Discuss what it would be like to have an angel or a voice from heaven speak to us. What would be the problems with verifying this? What did Peter experience? Why did he teach that the written Word of God was more reliable? Read Psalm 19:7-11 and spend time thanking God for His Word.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.** What does Peter mean when he says, “no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation?” How does the Roman Church understand this?

(b) What kinds of problems related to interpretation were in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:30-37)? How were some in Corinth interpreting scripture and what does Paul command (1 Corinthians 14:37)?

(c) What did Peter say about the prophets in 1 Peter 1:10-13? Did they understand what they wrote? How do we understand what they wrote (2 Timothy 2:15)?

(d) Why is prayer also essential in interpretation (2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; Psalm 119:18)?

(e) How has God spoken to His people (Hebrews 1:1-3; 2 Peter 3:2)? What did Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit would do (John 16:12-13)?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 2:15. Explain how the church at the time of Luther (the Roman Catholic Church) taught about reading the Bible. Why did they forbid having it translated into the language of the people? Can we interpret the Bible today? What two things must we do to insure accurate interpretation (2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:18)? Pray today for missionaries who are involved in the translation of God’s Word into other languages (like Lesley Wolfe!).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** What does Paul tell Timothy to continue in (2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 4:16)?
- (b) When can a person begin to be affected by the scriptures? What are they able to do (compare 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 10:17; James 1:18, 21)? What did Jesus say about the Word in John 5:39?
- (c) Where does *all scripture* come from (2 Timothy 3:16)? Why does this matter? How would its usefulness be affected if this was not true?
- (d) Read Acts 17:10-12. What was the main difference between the Christians of Berean and Thessalonica? Did they accept everything that Paul said as being true? How did they determine if it was true? How is this a model for us today?
- (e) What does the Word of God do for us? Consider a few passages and note what each says: John 17:17; Psalm 119:28; Psalm 119:76; Psalm 119:105.
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and Acts 17:10-12. Talk about the importance of studying the Bible. What could happen if we just accepted the interpretations of pastors or church leaders? How does personal study of the Bible protect us from false teachers? How does it equip us and prepare us? Pray for someone today that needs to hear the Word and come to Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 2 Peter 1:12-21. What was Peter's experience on the Mount of Transfiguration? How does he compare this experience to the clear Word of God? What reason does he give us for trusting the Bible? Pray today for those who teach the Word of God and for those who hear it.

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Sola Scriptura

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy..."