

Small Group Guide

GODLINESS AND THE WORD OF CHRIST

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. Bart Box

July 17, 2011

2 Peter 1:12-21

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

Sermon Outline

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder...2 Peter 1:13)

The Word in Our Hands (vv. 16-18, 20-21)

- A divine revelation... (vv. 16, 20-21)
 - We do not follow cleverly devised myths.
 - We adhere to divinely inspired truth.
- That tells of coming King... (v. 16)
 - We await a personal return.
 - We await a powerful return.
- Who will judge the world in righteousness... (vv. 17-18; Psalm 2)
 - The world stands in rebellion against God's King.
 - The King stands in judgment against all rebellion.
- And who will save those who take refuge in him. (vv. 17-18; Psalm 2)
 - We will be spared of His wrath.
 - We will be saved by His death.

Small Group Guide

GODLINESS AND THE WORD OF CHRIST

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. Bart Box

July 17, 2011

2 Peter 1:12-21

The Word in Our Hearts (v. 19)

- We should hear the Word as certain news.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (Psalm 19:7)

- We should hear the Word as saving news.

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31)

- We should hear the Word as sustaining news.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Message Summary

Peter, addressing a people who were being influenced by false teachers, wanted to assure his readers that the Scripture was not a gathered list of myths and fables put together by well-meaning moral teachers. Rather, Scripture is divinely inspired truth that reveals the character of God, the person of Jesus, and His redemptive plan of salvation through Christ to save sinful humankind. Peter did not discount the role that men played in recording God's Word, but he clearly explained that all of Scripture was from God—not a summary of God's message but the true Word of God. The Word assuredly speaks of the return of Christ, the certainty of which should cause examination of one's standing before God. The return of Christ also is a great encouragement to believers, who can find hope and rest from the sinfulness of the world in the promises of Christ.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- Peter claimed in this passage and Paul claimed in 2 Timothy 3:16 that Scripture is the Word of God. Why is this distinction important in separating the Bible from other writings such as Greek mythology or personal experiences?
- What authority does Scripture have in our lives if we do not believe in the divine inspiration of it? How does the very basis of Christianity crumble without a belief in Scripture's divine inspiration?
- How does our conviction of Scripture as the inspired Word of God affect how we apply it?
- How does our interaction with, devotion to, and application of Scripture demonstrate our view of it?
- How do we often ignore God's teaching because we do not take His Word seriously?
- How do we often discount God's teaching because of our own experiences and selfish desires that do not line up with His Word?
- How can disbelief in the divine inspiration of Scripture jeopardize our belief in the legitimacy of Christ's return? In turn, how can a disbelief in Christ's return jeopardize the need for and call to a godly life?
- Peter's quote of "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" alluded to two different references in Scripture—the Transfiguration, recorded in Matthew 17:1-8, and Psalm 2:1-8. How do these passages more fully describe the way in which Christ would return?
- How does believing in the return of Christ place importance on repentance?
- How does believing in the return of Christ bring hope and encouragement to the tough daily pursuits of godly living in a sinful world?
- In what areas of our lives do we need to ask God to transform us as a result of having a firm conviction about the authority of His Word?
- What is the purpose of having a conviction about the divine inspiration of Scripture if we do not know what it says and, therefore, can't apply it?
- What actions can we take to make the Word a part of our daily lives? How can we show the world that God's Word is central to our walk with Him?

Small Group Guide

GODLINESS AND THE WORD OF CHRIST

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. Bart Box

July 17, 2011

2 Peter 1:12-21

- How can we let the certainty of Christ's return urge us to action in sharing the gospel?
- How can we use the certainty of Christ's return to encourage fellow believers?
- Who or what do some Christians put their hope in at times other than Christ and His 2nd coming (ex. a future spouse, job, educational attainment, living location, cure, etc.)?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from the worship guide)

- **Lives and Church:** *Pray that we would be a people who would be quick to hide His Word in our hearts and live in joyful submission to it.*
- **Local:** *This week we are praying for AMBUCS, a non-profit organization that, in the name of Christ, reaches out to children and others with disabilities. We are also praying for First Baptist Gardendale, Kevin Hamm, Pastor.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for Hannah Davis, Brook Hills' Long-Term Missionary to South Africa. We are also praying for Brook Hills' teams in Ecuador, East Asia, Cuba, Peru, and India.*