

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 February 18, 2024 "Eyewitness Testimony"



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we embark on this Lenten journey, guide our steps and illuminate our path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our soul. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 1:1-4 (NIV)

¹Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

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INTRODUCTION

More people in our world today have become skeptical of the claims of Christianity. This has led to more and more modern people dismissing faith. What does that mean for Christians? Christians are not expected to believe based solely on a collection of ancient manuscripts. The foundation of our faith is anchored to something far more substantial and sustainable.

Luke makes it clear that he wrote his Gospel based on eyewitness testimony and he wants to assure us that our faith was anchored to an event: the Resurrection of Jesus. The stories in the Bible about Jesus are not just Bible stories, the story of Jesus is "the story." Don't give up on following Jesus because you don't think there's anything to the story of Jesus until you personally investigate the story for yourself.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever felt compelled to document the life of someone you know or knew personally? If so, why? If not, why not?
- 2. If you had to document the life of someone you know, who would it be and why? If you weren't allowed to use any technology other than writing, how would you convince people that your stories about that person were true?
- 3. As it relates to faith, have you ever experienced a season of doubt? If so, what exactly did you doubt and why?
- 4. Read Luke 1:1-4 (on page 1). What stands out to you regarding how Luke began this book?
- 5. What's your initial response to the suggestion that the Christian faith rises or falls on the reliability of the Gospels rather than the reliability of the entire Bible?

FINAL APPLICATION

Spend some time this week (the first week of Lent) doing some spiritual self-assessment.