

## **life groups discussion guide**

### **series: three reasons to believe in God**



*May 17, 2015*

If someone asked you why you believed in the Bible, what would be your response? For many Christians it comes down to one word: Faith. You might even think back to Matthew 18, when Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” We do indeed need a humble, child-like faith to follow God. But God does not ask us to follow Him blindly without giving us support for our faith.

Stopping at faith, and building nothing on top of that foundation creates a stagnate, lazy walk. God calls us to be in the word. Hopefully, our faith will drive us to be better students of the Bible, which in turn strengthens our faith.

#### **Reading**

1 Peter 3:14-17

2 Tim 2:15

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In Jesus’ day the religious leaders were constantly twisting scripture to mold it to their purpose. Not much has changed. The Word is under constant attack. Critics argue that it is inconsistent, misogynistic, scientifically inaccurate, intolerant, and supports slavery. Let’s look towards Jesus’ response in his day.

#### **Reading**

Mat 15:1-9

Mark 2:24-28

What is the consistent factor in Jesus’ responses to his critics? He uses the Word. Furthermore, he is able to use the Word, because he has studied the Word. The same holds true today. When Jesus was confronted, his response would have been less credible if he would have just said, “I have faith that I am right.” Faith is the foundation for our relationship with God, not a license to ignore his Word. In light of this, how do you think we should respond when the Word of God is attacked?

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Apologetics is the justification of theory or religious doctrine. While most Christians don't have the luxury to be full time Bible scholars, having a modest background in apologetics can bolster one's faith. One piece of the apologetics puzzle is Messianic prophecy.

## Reading and Discussion

Psalm 22:1-18 --- What does this prophetic Psalm depict? This was written almost a thousand years before Christ. How should this support your faith?

Is 7:14

Is 53:1-12

Aside from prophecies directly related to Christ, the Bible is full of historical prophecies that are accurate. For example Isaiah's prophecy of the fall of Babylon Is 13:19.

## Discussion:

We should believe in the Bible, not only for it's prophecy, historical accuracy and consistency, but also because of the supernatural impact it has on our lives. Discuss within your group the impact the Word has had on your life. Talk about how this impact strengthens your faith in the Scriptures.

## Closing Prayer

*Lord, your word is infallible. Thank you for making truth knowable to us through this gift. Help us not to take for granted the blessing of the Holy Scriptures. Guide us as we study, that our faith in you would be strengthened, and that our understanding would grow. Above all, help us to apply your Word to our lives to honor you and show others your love. Amen.*