

following Jesus in uncertain times

What is the series about?

You only have to watch the news for five minutes to know that we live in very uncertain times. In every arena from politics to economics things are far from stable. With this cultural backdrop, the Bible reminds us that Jesus brings certainty in uncertain situations. In this series we unpack what it looks like to follow Jesus in uncertain times.

Listen to the audio

On the King's Norwich app or at:
kingsnorwich.com/uncertaintimes

Check out the blog

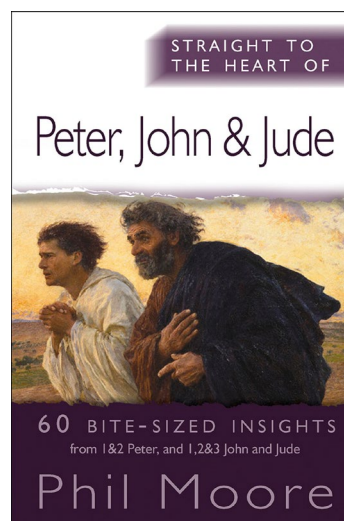
kingsnorwich.com/blog

Recommended Reading

Straight to the Heart of:

Peter, John & Jude

Phil Moore



Title: Accusations, insults and our response

Speaker: Toby Skipper (City Centre, Mile Cross)

Bible Ref: 1 Peter 3:13-17

Overview

Peter makes it clear that if we follow Jesus, listen to what he says & put it into practice, then we will sometimes suffer for doing what is good (3:14,17). Sometimes this suffering will come in the shape of accusations (2:12), insults (3:9, 4:14), threats (3:14) and malicious talk (3:16). The question is, how will we respond? There are two temptations we will face. The 1st temptation is to retaliate out of hurt. This is why Peter says we're not to repay insult with insult, but rather to bless. The 2nd temptation is to retreat out of fear. When we're put down or shouted down it's easy to back down (be silenced) or dumb down (what Jesus says). Peter wants to encourage his readers that neither are the way of Christ. We don't need to retaliate out of hurt or retreat out of fear, but rather respond with Christlike character in the action we take & the words we speak, trusting God with the results.

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. Why does Peter ask "*Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?*" (3:13)
2. Why does Peter say that we are blessed when we suffer for doing good? (3:14)
3. What is the hope Peter speaks of, and what is it rooted in? (1:3-4; 3:15)

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. How does focusing on the suffering of Christ keep us from retaliating out of hurt? (1Peter 2:20-24, Hebrews 12:3)
2. How does focusing on the Lordship of Christ keep us from retreating out of fear? (1Peter 3:15, 18-22, Psalm 34)
3. When we are questioned about our faith, how can we make sure we're prepared to give an answer and grow in Christlike character in the way we answer? (1Peter 3:15-16)

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. Why is keeping a clear conscience important in our witnessing to others? (3:17)
2. Verses 3:18-22 are not the easiest to understand, but without going into detail, I hope you will find this quote helpful; "*Even through Christ suffered unjustly to death for doing good, that suffering was not the defeat it may have appeared to be but was instead a victory over all angels, authorities and powers. Therefore, this passage functions as a word of encouragement to Christians oppressed by the powers they faced... Just as Christ emerged from suffering and death into resurrection life, so will Peter's oppressed readers...*" (Karen Jobes, Baker Exegetical Commentary)