

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

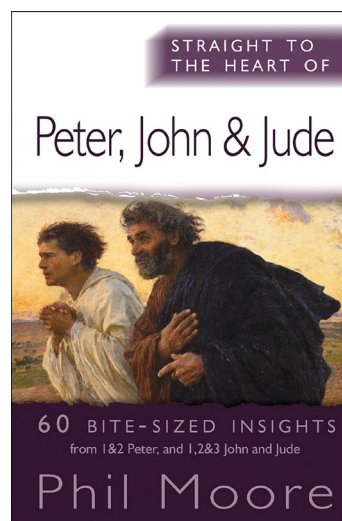
kingsnorwich.com/blog

Recommended Reading

Straight to the Heart of:

Peter, John & Jude

Phil Moore



Title: A Hope & A Future

Speaker: Toby Skipper (City Centre & Mile Cross)

Bible Ref: 1 Peter 1:3-7

Overview

Peter is writing to people who are facing trouble & trials (1:6) that have the potential to cause confusion, raise doubts & cause them to be shaken in their faith. Peter's aim is the opposite of James Bonds martini (shaken not stirred). He wants them to be stirred in their faith, not shaken in it & encourages them to 'stand fast' in the gospel (5:12); to be firmly rooted in the grace of God (1:3). He wants them to live in the good of Gods mercy & their lives to be infused with hope (essential for life). This hope is alive! Rooted firmly in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It's a confident expectation that we will receive our promised inheritance (Rev 21:1-5) "untouched by death, unstained by evil & unimpaired by time" (1:4-5)

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 start by praising God? (1:3)
2. Peter says we have an inheritance - what should we be expecting? (see Revelation 21:1-5)
3. Peter mentions suffering around 18 times in this letter, both Christs suffering & our suffering - why is he keen to link these together for those who are following Christ?

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. Peter says there is a purpose being worked out in our deepest pain (think the Cross). As we follow Jesus through the darkest valleys (Psalm 23:4) what can we expect God to produce in us during these times? (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-11)
2. How do we set our hope on Jesus when facing suffering and pain?
3. How does our future hope (rooted in Christs resurrection from the dead) affect and influence our daily living?

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. Peter says our suffering is for a little while (1:6) and Paul calls our troubles are 'light and momentary' (2 Cor 4:17) - in light of the suffering people face, how can he say this?
2. Sometimes we will 'suffer for being a Christian' (4:16) what did this look like for his hearers and what does this look like for us today?