

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.

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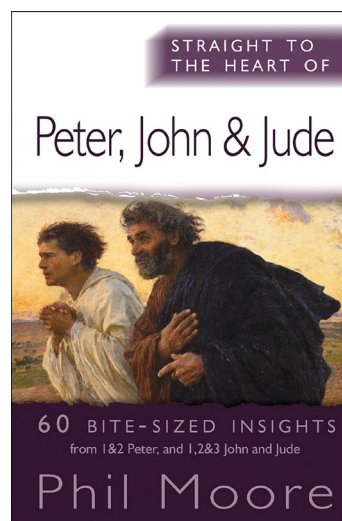
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Recommended Reading

Straight to the Heart of:

Peter, John & Jude

Phil Moore



Title: Faithful Stewards

Speaker: Jon Mullender (City Centre, Mile Cross)

Bible Ref: 1 Peter 4:1-11

Overview

Living for Jesus should result in a change in our behaviour which gets noticed by people around us who don't follow Jesus. Sometimes they won't like it and Peter tells us we will suffer - have "abuse" heaped on us - as a result. This is a guaranteed part of living the Christian life! Peter encourages us to have the same attitude as Jesus who chose to suffer in obedience to God, rather than sin. This attitude is an easy thing to express but not easy to keep and sometimes we fail. However, like with Peter, Jesus is faithful not only to forgive and restore us but inviting us to play our part in his plan of redemption for the broken world we live in. After we've prayed, the most important thing we can do is to selflessly and sacrificially love one another, the way Jesus loves us. This is expressed in the way we open our homes to strangers and serve one another with the unique gifts God has given us.

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. What is Christ's attitude?
2. What does it mean to be "done with sin"?
3. What does Peter mean by love each other "deeply"?

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. Describe the last time you chose to suffer in obedience rather than sin.
2. Describe the last time you were hospitable to someone you didn't know.
3. What unique gifts has God given you? How could you use them to serve others?

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. What are the differences between the suffering of Peter's audience and ours?
2. Why does Peter seem to highlight particular 'types' of sin in this passage?
3. What does Peter mean by "grace in its various forms"?