

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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On the King's Norwich app or at:
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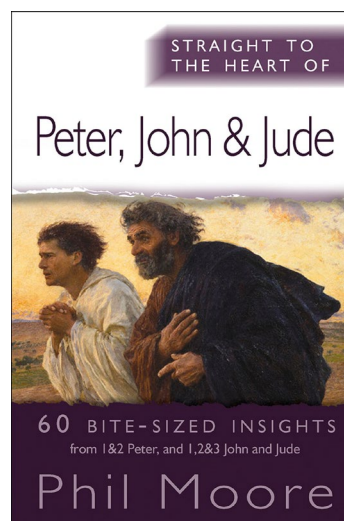
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Recommended Reading

Straight to the Heart of:

Peter, John & Jude

Phil Moore



Title: Be holy

Speaker: Toby Skipper (City Centre & Mile Cross)

Bible Ref: 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Overview

We don't often hear someone encouraging us to 'be holy'. In our culture we tend to hear be yourself, or be kind, or be happy - but not be holy. Yet Peter takes this Old Testament command (*Leviticus 19:2*) and applies it to Christ followers today. This is not addressed to super-saints but to everyday Christians, who are trying to follow Jesus, facing trials, experiencing trouble, maybe some are starting to question their faith in the face of suffering. Peter wants to help them live as followers of Jesus when faced with the temptation to conform to the way of the world rather than the way of Christ. They are to be holy in all they do, but before we think about what we are to do we need to know who God is, what he has done and who we are.

Therefore, be holy;

1. Because God is holy
2. Because God has made you holy (*Exodus 31:13; Hebrews 10:10*)
- it's all of grace; now be holy in all you do.

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.

3. What do you think of when you hear the word 'holy' and the command to 'be holy in all you do'?
4. Why is it important to start our understanding of holiness with who God is? (*Isaiah 6*)
5. Why is it important to understand holiness as an act of God for us (*Exodus 31:13; Hebrews 10:10; 1Peter 1:18-19*) before it is a way of life lived by us?

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 our relationship with Jesus as Lord (*1Peter 3:15*) impact the way we relate to sin (*1Peter 1:14, 2:1*) and to other people (*1:22*)?
2. What areas of our society could we be tempted to conform to (*1Peter 1:14*)?
3. Hebrews 12:14 tells us to pursue holiness - how can we do this and encourage each other to be holy in all we do and be the 'holy nation' God says we are (*1Peter 2:9*)?

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 other ways are we to reflect God's image and his holiness in the world?
2. What does Isaiah's vision (*Isaiah 6*) tell us about the holiness of God?
3. What do we learn about God's holiness by looking at the life of Jesus?