



# LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

## What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

## PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

**NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader:** This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

### MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

### FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

I BELIEVE, BUT...  
"Is the Bible Reliable?"

"Oh God, I cannot prove certain things. I cannot answer some of the questions Chuck is raising and some of the other people are raising, but I accept this Book by faith as the Word of God."  
-Billy Graham's Prayer

"That decision changed everything!" -Billy Graham

*"I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"* Mark 9:24 (NLT)

How to get the most out of this message series:

- Commit to connecting here every week
- Invite someone to join you
- Join a Life Group
- Educate yourself (The Case For Faith by Lee Strobel)

Reservations people have about the Bible:

1. "Shouldn't the Bible be understood as a collection of myths, fables, and made-up stories?"

*"It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah"* Luke 3:1-2 (NLT)

*"When Gallio became governor of Achaia, some Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him before the governor for judgment."* Acts 18:12 (NLT)

*"Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings."* Romans 16:23 (NLT)

"...the major result of the many unrelenting scholarly attacks on the historical reliability of the New Testament has been to frustrate the attackers because again and again the Scripture has stood up to their challenges." -Rodney Stark

2. "People are selective about which Bible commands they obey and which they ignore."

Think of the Bible as a true play in five acts:

- Act 1 is creation. (Genesis 1-2)
- Act 2 is the fall. (Genesis 3-11)
- Act 3 is God's working with/through the people of Israel. (Genesis 12 - Malachi)
- Act 4 is the coming of Jesus. (Matthew-John)
- Act 5 the Mission of the Church. (Acts - Revelation)

*"Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)*

3. If the Bible was written 1,000's of years ago, how can we be sure that the words we read now was what they actually wrote back then?

ANCIENT WRITING	NUMBER OF COPIES	YEARS SEPARATING THIS COPY FROM ORIGINAL
A. Caesar's <i>Gallic Wars</i>  (Yet no historian I know of doubts existence of Caesar or the integrity of these texts...)	9 (good copies in existence)	(oldest of which is a copy dating to 900 years after Caesar's time)
B. Plato's manuscripts  (Still scholars do not discount the authenticity of Plato's writings or say things like they wonder if what remains of his writings is less than true to his original thought.)	9 or 10	1,400 years
C. Bible	5,000+ handwritten manuscripts in the Greek language that support the writings of the New Testament	(many of the earliest copies are separated from the originals by only 25 years)

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”* Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)