

Small Group Guide: Standing Firm on God's Word

Based on Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth, and to give courage to stand firm on His Word regardless of cultural pressures.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you felt pressure to compromise on something you believed was right. What did you do? How did it feel?

Sermon Overview

This sermon addresses the growing trend of rejecting biblical authority—particularly Paul's writings—and challenges believers to stand firm on the complete truth of Scripture. Luke's careful documentation of eyewitness accounts demonstrates the reliability of God's Word and our responsibility to accept it fully, not selectively.

Key Takeaways

1. **The Unity of Scripture:** Paul's message aligns perfectly with Peter, Jesus, John the Baptist, and all the Old Testament prophets. Rejecting Paul means rejecting the entire biblical witness.
2. **The Author's Intent Matters:** We don't get to create our own interpretation of Scripture. God's intended meaning is what matters, not what "works for us."
3. **The Cost of Faithfulness:** Standing firm on biblical truth will bring opposition, even from within the church. This is not new—it happened to Paul, Timothy, and countless faithful believers.
4. **Our Choice:** Every generation must decide whether to compromise with culture or stand firm on God's Word and pass that faith to the next generation.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Why did Luke emphasize that he was recording eyewitness accounts in Luke 1:1-4?
2. The sermon mentioned that Jesus explained how "all the law and the prophets and the Psalms" spoke of Him (Luke 24). Why is this important for understanding the unity of the Bible?
3. How did the early church leaders (Peter, James, John) validate Paul's message in Acts 15?

Personal Reflection

4. The pastor said, "Your interpretation of the Scriptures doesn't matter." How does this statement challenge modern Christian culture? How does it challenge you personally?
5. Which is harder for you: standing firm when the secular world opposes biblical truth, or standing firm when people in the church compromise? Why?
6. The sermon referenced the "Sparkle Creed" as an example of rewriting biblical truth. What are some subtle ways our culture (or even our own hearts) tries to remake God in our image?

Going Deeper

7. Read Acts 2 and notice how Peter quotes the Old Testament extensively. Why is it significant that the apostles constantly pointed back to Scripture rather than their own ideas?
8. The sermon mentioned that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12). What does persecution look like in our context today? How should we prepare for it?

Application

9. The pastor challenged: "Decide today. I'm gonna stand for the truth, period." What specific area of biblical truth do you feel most pressure to compromise on? What would standing firm look like practically?
10. How can we help our children and the next generation stand firm on God's Word in an increasingly hostile culture?

Closing Reflection

Read together: **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

Reflection Question: What would change in your life if you truly believed that ALL Scripture is God-breathed and authoritative?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for courage to stand firm on God's Word without compromise
- Pray for discernment to recognize cultural pressures to reinterpret Scripture
- Pray for the next generation to receive and hold fast to biblical truth
- Pray for those who are facing persecution for their faith
- Pray for unity in the church around the authority of Scripture