



Group Discussion Guide

Who do you trust: Week 1

For groups meeting August 2 evening through August 9 morning.

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus had just fed five thousand people in a remote area near the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Right after this miracle, Jesus sent the disciples away in a boat while he encouraged the crowds of people to go home. This is the setting of what is recorded in Matthew 14:22-33, as Jesus walked on water and empowered Peter to do the same.

John 14:1-14

The context of this passage is, Jesus had revealed to the disciples that he would die, one of them would betray him, Peter would deny him three times, Satan was acting against them (Luke 22:31-32) and all of them would fall away from him (Matthew 26:31). No doubt, these revelations caused them to carry a heavy burden. It was into this space that Jesus brought words of encouragement.

Luke 24:36-53

Luke records that after the resurrection of our Savior, he appeared to two men walking along the road to Emmaus. After they realized who he was, he vanished and they returned to Jerusalem where they found the disciples to confirm Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. They shared their experience of seeing Jesus along the road and how they realized who he was when he broke bread with them. While those who were gathered talked about all of this, Jesus appeared and stood among them. After this, he brought them out to the area of Bethany where he ascended to heaven.

2 Timothy 1:8-14

Paul was in prison in Rome and awaiting execution as he wrote this letter to Timothy, whom he referred to as "my beloved child" (2 Timothy 1:2). Paul was a mentor to Timothy and sent this letter to give parting instructions and encouragement to the young pastor. In this passage, the apostle told Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel and reminded his apprentice of all that Christ had accomplished and how he should ensure that he stood firm in handling "the good deposit entrusted to you" ... a reference to the life transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

As Paul closes his letter, he challenges Timothy to preach the word and be ready regardless of what was happening in his world. He also warned Timothy that some people would seek after teaching that met their selfish desires, before proclaiming that his own life was nearing its end.

Discussion Questions

1. Peter actually walked on the water until he focused on the wind, then he began to sink (Matthew 14:30). What is the “wind” in your life right now? What is causing you to fear, and standing in the way of you trusting in God?
2. How are you encouraged by the words of Jesus in John 14:1-14? What do you think he meant when he said those who believe in him will do works even greater than he has done?
3. When Jesus appeared to his disciples in Luke 24, they were troubled at the sight of him. How did he calm their fear? How has God worked to calm your fears? What promises can you go back to that will help you when you experience fear?
4. Why do you think Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:8 not to be ashamed of the truth about Jesus? How do we as believers sometimes act ashamed of the Gospel? What is the “good deposit” Paul refers to in verse 14?
5. Paul stated to Timothy, “I charge you ... preach the word ...” (2 Timothy 4:1-2). Why is it important for us to be “charged” or challenged at times? What does Paul mean by instructing Timothy to “be ready in season and out of season”?
6. What does it mean to be “sober-minded” (2 Timothy 4:5)? How do we strive for this mindset in the midst of all that’s happening in our world right now? How are you inspired to follow Paul’s example in verses 6-8?