



**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**  
For the sermon preached on  
5/31/2020:  
“Truth Matters”  
2 Peter 1:12-19

**How to use the Study Guide During Our “Stay at Home” Online Group Meetings**

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly, there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our Stay at Home continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the Group Life Team

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For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen

in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

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For the Group:

As mentioned, throughout our Stay at Home quarantine, we have shortened our study, given the confinements and attention spans on Zoom calls. So these three questions are designed to be less inductive, and more practical. Let's get started.

This is Week 7 in our “What Now” series, and Pastor Bryan's message is called “Truth Matters.”

Q – Our text for this week begins: “So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory...” (2 Peter 1:12-13)

Think of a time when you were helped, encouraged, or challenged by a reminder of a spiritual truth you already knew (or a time when you helped, encouraged, or challenged someone else by reminding them of an important spiritual truth they already knew).

- What effect(s) did the reminder have? Did it change the way you understood that truth?

Q – Pastor Bryan talked about how God gave us a mind and senses so we can both gather and evaluate data from the world around us. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter speaks about the eyewitness testimony to Jesus's miracles, wonders, and signs, and here in 2 Peter he encourages us to use our minds to evaluate for ourselves whether that data corresponds to reality, or not.

- In what ways have you used your mind to evaluate the data about Jesus that has been presented to you?
- How have you used your experience of the world around you to grapple with the teachings of Jesus?

Q – In addition to the gift of reason, God also gave us the gift of revelation: “We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19). Pastor Bryan spoke of the pursuit of truth as a partnership between the human and the divine; between mind and Spirit; between Reason and Revelation.

- When has a passage from Scripture helped you to understand more clearly what was happening in your life or in the world?
- Having met the truth in the person of Jesus Christ, how can you build your life and your home more firmly on that truth?

As we close today, let's pray that the Lord would continue to open our minds and hearts to a deeper understanding of the truth about God, about the world, and about ourselves through the study of God's Word...