Caregiver SUPPORT

DISCUSSION GUIDE #05

Why Can Jesus Be Trusted? (Easter)

He did what he said in the gospels.

WELCOME

» Welcome attendees, look for newcomers and acknowledge them specifically

» Share the group's mission statement:

This is a safe and judgment-free environment where caregivers can find support, encouragement, and help to lift their eyes to Christ.

» Review guidelines for the meeting:

  » Begin and end at set times

  » Respect time allotted for sharing, set by facilitator

  » What is shared in the meetings is confidential, unless it involves abuse of a minor

  » Offer an empathetic and respectful ear to others

WHAT THIS GROUP IS

  » A place to biblically care for the caregivers

  » A place to bring the hope of the gospel to their situations

  » A place to pray for God to meet and bless them with the hope of the gospel

  » A place to listen, to hear struggles, and give help from the bible

  » A place to encourage

WHAT THIS GROUP IS NOT

  » A place to deal with 'patient care' solutions and diagnosis for your loved one

  » A place to give direction for patient care for your loved one

  » A place to hear answers to 'fix' your loved one and the situation you have

  » A place to share political opinions

» Open in prayer

» Encourage group to share current situations (3 minutes). Be sensitive to new attendees.

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QUESTION

As we read the following verses, let's consider this question: "Why can Jesus be trusted?"

Let's read Luke 9:18-22 from the New Testament in the Bible. We're reading from the English Standard Version, or ESV for short.

> *Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."*
>
> *And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."*

DISCUSSION

If you are familiar with the Bible you know the rest of the story. Soon, we'll be celebrating Easter. We know that Jesus did die on the cross and rose from the dead three days later, just like he said he would here in Luke and many other places in the Bible. How can knowing this help us understand that Jesus can be trusted? ***Allow for discussion.**

OBSERVATIONS

When we place our trust in someone or something, there must be something about them that makes them worthy of our trust. Not only did Jesus do what he promised, but he defeated our greatest enemy. By dying on the cross and rising from the grave three days later, he conquered death. No one in history has ever accomplished such a thing! No one in history could ever be more worthy of our trust.

HOPE

So what does that mean for us today? We read in 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (ESV) the words that were written by the apostle Paul,

> *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.*

If you are a believer in Christ, you can say and do what Paul did. He trusted Jesus and relied on Him for strength. These promises are for us today, in whatever circumstance we are facing or burden we may carry, because Jesus can be trusted. We know he can be trusted because he did what he said he would do, and he will continue to be faithful to his word. This should bring us great hope and comfort, even in the middle of very hard things.

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GO DEEPER

» Read Luke 9:22. Jesus' death and resurrection happened just as he said. Take a moment to remember that his faithfulness does not depend on how strong you feel today.

» If you aren't a Christian and want to know more about the gospel and what Jesus has done, talk with another Christian you may know.

» We encourage you to be a part of a local church that preaches from the Bible. If you need help thinking through that, feel free to reach out to us.

PRAYER OF LAMENT AND HOPE

Lord, thank you for reminding us tonight that you are trustworthy and keep your promises. For a few moments we've been able to lift our eyes off our circumstances that seem to be more pressing and permanent than the truth of who you are. Could you please help us to remember that we can trust you tonight as we lay our heads on our pillows? Help us to trust you tomorrow morning when we wake up and the needs of the day press upon us. Help us when we are worn out by the suffering our loved one experiences and filled with grief and depression. Be our strength, Jesus. You endured the ultimate suffering; you did what you said you would do, so one day we can be with you, and never suffer again. We trust you and look forward to that day.

Amen