

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: "BUILT ON BEDROCK"

Based on Luke 1:1-4

OPENING REFLECTION

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you had to choose between keeping the peace and standing for what you believed was right. What made that choice difficult?

THEME 1: THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH

1. Clouds vs. Mountains

- The sermon contrasts knowing biblical truths "like clouds" versus "like mountains." Which metaphor better describes your current relationship with Scripture? Give a specific example.

2. Personal Certainty Check

- Luke wrote to give Theophilus "certainty" (*asphaleia* - locked down security) about what he'd been taught. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your certainty about core gospel truths? What areas feel less secure?

3. Wrestling with Doubt

- When have you ever doubted the truthfulness of the Scriptures? How did you work through those seasons?

Supporting Scripture Passages:

- **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."

- **Connection:** Reinforces Luke's careful methodology by affirming the divine inspiration behind Scripture's human authorship.

- **2 Peter 1:16-21**

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty... And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

- **Connection:** Peter directly addresses the "cleverly devised myths" accusation, emphasizing eyewitness testimony and divine inspiration—exactly Luke's emphasis.
- **Hebrews 1:1-3**
"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."
- **Connection:** Shows the progression from various revelations to the ultimate revelation in Christ—what Luke is documenting.

THEME 2: TRUTH VS. RELATIONSHIPS

4. The Shelley Dilemma

- Put yourself in Shelley's shoes. How would you have responded at that birthday party? What makes it hardest to speak truth when relationships are at stake?

5. Love and Truth

- The sermon asks: *"Which comes first: love or truth? And which is the foundation that the other rests upon?"* How would you answer this question? Share a time when you've had to wrestle with this tension.
- Ephesians 4:15 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."
- **Connection:** Addresses the tension between truth and love, showing they must work together, not in opposition.
- John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
- **Connection:** Shows that Jesus Himself is truth incarnate—*we're not choosing between abstract concepts but between Christ and the world.*

6. Costly Conversations

- Describe a relationship where your biblical convictions have created tension. How are you navigating that situation? What guidance would you give others facing similar challenges?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY

- **Matthew 10:34-39**
"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own

household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

- **Connection:** Jesus explicitly warns that following Him will create relational conflict—exactly Shelley's experience.
- **John 15:18-21**
"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."
- **Connection:** Prepares believers for the opposition they'll face for standing with Christ's truth.
- **Acts 5:27-32**
"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, 'We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.'"
- **Connection:** Shows the transformed Peter—from denier to bold proclaimer—demonstrating the power of resurrection truth.

THEME 3: THE RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE

7. Historical Confidence

- After hearing about Luke's methodology and the reliability of oral tradition, has your confidence in the gospel accounts changed? Why or why not?

8. Responding to Skepticism

- How would you respond to someone who says, "The Bible is just made up stories from 200 years later"? What from this sermon would you find most helpful in that conversation?

9. Eyewitness Impact

- The sermon emphasizes that the disciples were transformed from hiding cowards to bold preachers. What does this transformation suggest about the reality of the resurrection? How does this affect your own faith?

THEME 4: PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

10. Your Encounter with Christ

- Luke's goal was that readers would "encounter the living Christ." When have you most clearly experienced Jesus as real and present in your life? How did that encounter change you?

11. From Information to Transformation

- The sermon challenges us not just to study the Gospel but to "stake your life on it." What would it look like practically for you to move from studying about Jesus to staking your life on Him?

12. Bedrock Living

- What area of your life needs to move from "shifting sand" to "bedrock foundation"? What specific steps could you take this week to build on more solid ground?

THEME 5: COURAGE IN CULTURE

13. Cultural Pressure Points

- Where do you feel the most pressure to compromise biblical truth in your daily life? (Work, family, social media, friendships, etc.)

14. Preparing for Conflict

- How can we prepare ourselves for moments when standing for truth will cost us relationally or professionally? What spiritual disciplines or practices help build that courage?

15. Truth with Grace

- How do we speak biblical truth in a way that's both uncompromising and loving? Share an example of someone you've seen do this well.

CLOSING APPLICATION

16. Personal Next Steps

- Based on this sermon, what is one specific area where God is calling you to greater certainty, courage, or commitment? What's your next step?

17. Prayer Focus

- The sermon ended with a prayer for God to "turn skeptics into believers" and "take doubters and give them certainty." Who in your life needs prayer for faith? How can this group support you in praying for them?

18. Group Commitment

- How can our group help each other stand firm on biblical truth while loving those who disagree with us? What accountability or encouragement do you need?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Personal Study Challenge: This week, read through Luke 1:1-4 daily and ask God to show you one area where your faith needs to move from "cloud-like" to "mountain-solid." Journal about what you discover.

Memory Verse: Consider memorizing Luke 1:3-4 as a reminder of the certainty we can have in God's Word.