

Small Group Study Guide



Last Things First Nov 3, 2019

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the words they wrote and we pray that you might place on our hearts a deep desire to open those words and read them and to be shaped by them as they bear witness to your Son. It's in his name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 1:1-4

1 Many people have already applied themselves to the task of compiling an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us. 2 They used what the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed down to us. 3 Now, after having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, I have also decided to write a carefully ordered account for you, most honorable Theophilus. 4 I want you to have confidence in the soundness of the instruction you have received.

John 20:30-31

30 Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. 31 But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.



INTRODUCTION

Most of us know some Bible stories, but very few of us know the story of the Bible. And you may be surprised to discover it's a story that doesn't actually begin in the beginning. It begins with the accounts of a few men who sat down to record the death and resurrection of Jesus. It begins with the words of his followers who were compelled to document the events that had changed everything for them – because they knew it could change everything for us.

Many of us carried our childhood understanding of the Bible into adulthood. Faced with questions we couldn't answer and doubts we couldn't ignore, we walked away. If that's your story, there's another approach – one that John offers in his personal account of the life of Jesus. And if this account were all that we had, it would be enough.

QUESTIONS

- 1) How were you first introduced to the Bible? What people and ideas do you associate with that time?
- 2) Read Luke 1:1-4 on page 1. Luke was a first century doctor who documented the life of Jesus. How does Luke describe his purpose in documenting Jesus' life? Why do you think it was unusual in ancient times for many people to write about the same event?
- 3) Read John 20:30-31 on page 1. How does John describe his purpose for writing? What do you think John meant by "have life in his name"?
- 4) It's possible that you or someone you know left your faith because of something in the Bible. What is it that you or they didn't believe?
- 5) If John's account of Jesus' life was all that you had, what would change about how you approach Jesus and encourage others to move towards him?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, approach your faith in a new way by reading John's account of Jesus' life as though it was the only scripture you had.