

You can be certain: Why?

Discussion group questions

Luke 1:1-4

May the Lord help you to connect more deeply with him, with his Word and with one another through this group.

1. Review why Mark feels it is hard now to be a Christian in Australia. Would you add anything else to Mark's list?
2. Do you ever have days of doubt like Mark shared where you wonder if any of what you have believed is in fact true? If so, what usually triggers those doubts? How do you normally work through or resolve those doubts?
3. Mark said we need to know *why* we believe for three reasons: (a) so we don't lose confidence in the Lord ourselves; (b) so we can give an answer for the reason we believe (refer 1 Peter 3:15) and (c) so that we can offer a defence for why we believe when we directly attacked.

On a scale of 1 – 10, where 1 is "I really don't know why/what I believe" and 10 is "I'm ready to articulate and defend why I believe", where would you place yourself at this point? (*Feel free to pass this question of course! – but let's also help one another to move up the scale.*)

We saw that Luke's account is:

Biographical – read Luke 1:1-4

4. How does this make it so different to the world's well-known religions?
5. Have you ever read one of the Gospels like you would read any other biography – from start to finish? Would you commit to reading Luke that way in the next couple of weeks and bring back your impressions (and questions)?

Historical

6. Read Luke 3:1f. What is Luke trying to do in his introduction and in other historical references?
7. What is the significance of Luke finishing his research within 20-30 years of Jesus' life?

Biblical

8. See Luke 4:16-21, Luke 24:25-27 and 24:44. What is the significance of aspects of Jesus' life, *fulfilling* prophetic words uttered centuries earlier? Confused? Read that section of Mark's sermon again.

Personal

9. Luke wants Theophilus (and everyone who reads this work) to know the *certainty* of the things they have been taught. What did he mean by that and what is the result for living as a Christian?
10. Someone says to you: "that stuff about Jesus is just made up". How might you respond?
11. Discuss at least three differences Luke 1:1-4 can make:
 - a. certainty in crisis
 - b. confidence in defence and
 - c. challenge if you're not yet a Christian.
12. Share around the group, how this message impacted you and pray that we will grow more and more certain of what and why we believe and more confident in defending the same. *What resonated with you most? How do you plan to apply the message?*