

Reflection Questions: Luke 1:1-4

For the message, "Faith Embraces Certainty" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 25, 2018

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 1:1-4

A summary of the message: The Gospel writer, Luke (a first century physician turned historian) writes this Gospel of Jesus based on eyewitness testimony of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He compiled this document so that we can have certainty about the person and mission of Jesus.

Key Points: We need to hear Luke saying...

- ...we have facts, not fiction
- ...we have certainty, not wishful thinking

Key Quotes:

- 2 Peter 1:16, "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.
- 1 John 1:1-2, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands..., that which we have seen and heard we proclaim to you...."
- 1 Corinthians 15:4ff, "...he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive.... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all...he appeared to me also."
- Albert Einstein, "I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene.... No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life."

Let's get started...

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How does this text challenge a popular definition of faith as a blind faith, belief in something without any evidence?
- The earliest followers of Jesus went around claiming Jesus had risen from the dead, and had appeared to many people—eyewitnesses who were still living. In other words, Christianity is not so much a

philosophy or morality to adopt as it is an event rooted in history that is itself good news that calls for a response. How would you flesh this out in your own words?

- Am I currently taking this truth seriously? If I really believed and held to this, how would things change? How would my life look differently?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How does this text help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? In other words, how does this clarify our message in a world of many opinions about spiritual things?
- How does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____