

# A Common Thread

## Teacher Guide

Print one Common Thread handout for each student and one Teacher Guide for your use.

Read through the verses below together as a class. Have students underline all the phrases that show the writer had firsthand knowledge of the events. Discuss the questions below as a class. Underline words that show the author was an eyewitness of biblical events.

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| <b>Luke 1:1–4</b><br>(Luke speaking about himself and other witnesses)                         | <sup>1</sup> Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> <u>just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses</u> and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.   |
| <b>Acts 1:1–3</b><br>(Luke writing about the apostles witnessing Jesus after the Resurrection) | <sup>1</sup> In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> <u>He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.</u>   |
| <b>2 Peter 1:16–18</b><br>(Peter describing his witness of the Transfiguration)                | <sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, <u>but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.</u> <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup> <u>we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.</u>   |
| <b>1 John 1:1–3</b><br>(John describing the experience of the apostles with Jesus)             | <sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, <u>which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands,</u> concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and <u>we have seen it,</u> and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup> <u>that which we have seen and heard</u> we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. |

1. What is the common thread in these passages? *The writers were eyewitnesses to what they were writing about.*
2. How can this be combined with the truth from John 14:25–26 to make a powerful argument for the authority of the New Testament? *The writers were eyewitnesses to the events AND they had the Holy Spirit to accurately guide them as they recorded their experiences and other events.*

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Underline words that show the author was an eyewitness of biblical events.

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**John 14:25–26** <sup>25</sup> These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

**John 21:24–25** <sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.