

"Faith"

John 17: 1-16, 24-29

10/23/22

Discussion Guide

Prepare:

Listen to a song about faith and reflect on it. Or look up prior to meeting verses on faith and share you favorites.

The Passage:

Find a bible and read John 20:1-16, 24-29

1. Who in the passage do you relate to the most and why?
2. Was it a struggle for you to come to faith? What were the obstacles for you? If you haven't come to faith yet, what are the obstacles for you?
3. Have you ever heard of a person who reasoned their way to God or had a religious experience that was so profound that they immediately became a believer?
4. What is the historic evidence for the resurrection? If you don't know, do an online search and write down the evidence. As you look at it, is it compelling? Would the evidence lead someone to faith or simply remove some doubt about the possibility that Jesus did rise from the dead?
5. There are a lot of books that seek to provide evidence for the reliability of the Bible, the Gospels, the resurrection of Jesus, creation by God etc. Do these rational arguments bring people to faith in Jesus? What about apologetics? What role did apologetics play in the development of your faith?
6. What steps did God make in your life to enable you to come to faith? What steps is he taking right now to grow your faith?
7. Reflect on: *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."* John 6:44 What does it mean? Is this the doctrine of election or something else? What do you believe when it comes to election and predestination?
8. Read the end of Mark 9. It tells the story of a man who brought his son to Jesus to be healed. What encouragement does it give you? How much faith do we need to have our prayers answered?
9. Share a time you lacked the ability to believe God for yourself and God and/or others believed for you and got you through the moment.
10. Have you been part of a church or know a church that teaches: *"You know we don't know if we can believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus, or the need for a blood sacrifice to appease an angry God, nor the legendary elements added to the Gospels, things like miracles, a man walking on water, an axe head floating. None of these things matter. What's important are the teachings*

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of Jesus: love, living in harmony with each other, peace, kindness, compassion for the less fortunate, justice, mercy, and humility."

What difference does believing in the supernatural elements of our faith make in our lives? Isn't it enough to live by Jesus' teaching without having to embrace his deity, Lordship, resurrection, return, final Judge, and ultimate reign?

11. If you can remember when you first became interested in spiritual matters, what stirred in you? What were you grappling with and how did God use it to draw you to himself? Is there something you are grappling with now that God is using to grow you?
12. *"That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."* 2 Timothy 1:12 Do you have the same confidence in God that Paul did? What are you trusting God with right now that you'll one day ask Him about or hope to receive from him in eternity?
13. Both Thomas and Mary had conditions for their faith in Jesus. For Thomas, he had to see and touch Jesus. Mary thought she had the ways of God down, so she was unable to see Jesus because of how she thought life played out. Have you ever tried to make a bargain with God? Did God take you up on your offer and did you follow through on your promise? What conditions are you placing on God right now?
14. God turned Moses, the stutter, into a mighty deliverer. He turned a shepherd into a king. A musician into a Psalter. Fishermen into Apostles. A doubter into a witness. A confused woman into the first evangelist! Think about what God could do for you if you placed your faith in him and took a risk for him.

Perhaps your group can take a step of faith and do a service project in the name of Jesus.