

EASTER | BELIEVE...AGAIN | SERMON STUDY

April 18-21, 2019

Dive deeper into this week's message and passages from the Bible. Here are some questions to help guide your group discussion.

Jesus never asks us to become religious, clean up our behavior or get all our questions answered. Even with the faith of a mustard seed, we can walk into a relationship, a personal connection, to him. He invites us to trust him!

Read John 19:38-42. Two men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, were secret followers of Jesus. But when it looked like all hope was lost—Jesus was dead and no one was expecting a resurrection—they both went public with their connection to Jesus. They believed in Jesus because there was something believable about Jesus. It was based on their relationship with him.

- Whether you're a Christ follower or not, it's important that you can articulate the reasons why you believe what you do. Why are you following Jesus? Could your response stand up against the scrutiny of others or the storms of life? Why or why not?
- Instead of asking big faith and life questions like, "What about...?" or "Why would...?", the better questions are "Who is Jesus?" and "What happened?" Who is Jesus to you?
- Joseph's and Nicodemus' faith in Jesus was based on their personal connection to Jesus (relationship) and not based on their own effort or behavior (religion). How does this encourage you to come to Jesus just as you are, every day?

Read Acts 16:14-15 and Romans 8:1. We don't become Christians because we get all our questions answered. When we are connected to Jesus, our questions don't go away. But they shrink because it gets personal.

- What does it mean to be condemned? What causes you to feel condemned?
- Lydia had limited experience with church or Jesus, but she opened her heart, taking the next step in her spiritual journey. Are you willing to open your heart to what God is doing in your life? What could opening your heart look like?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus can handle the questions you wrestle with? Are you willing to trust him with your questions? What are you willing to openly and honestly bring to him?
- You are not your past or your biggest failure. Jesus is a better savior than you are a sinner. What does this truth personally mean to you?

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? How and when will you respond?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at how we're being challenged this week. (Subscribe at: tpcc.org/dailybiblereading)

Day One: John 19:38-42 | Religion vs. relationship.

Day Two: John 3:1-17 | Wrestling with questions.

Day Three: Acts 16:14-15 | Opening your heart.

Day Four: Romans 8:1 | What following Jesus looks like.

Day Five: Philippians 2:10-11 | A better savior than you are a sinner.