

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

When in Doubt

Week 5: Doubting Jesus

Matthew 16:15-16

Week of May 2, 2021

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

How can we know that Jesus is really God in the flesh? What evidence proves that Jesus' resurrection actually happened? Just like doubting the Bible, asking these questions is common for every believer. Jeff introduced two key ways we can know Jesus is legit: resurrection and martyrdom. Let's dive into how these terms anchor our faith.

Kicking it off: If you could own a sports team and be 100% in charge of the draft for the future players, which pro sport would you choose? What makes you enjoy that sport so much?

Discussion:

1. In the Scriptures, we see evidence of people asking God "big questions" of the faith. What are some reasons why people today have huge doubts about Jesus?
2. How would you define *the resurrection*? How about *martyrdom*? How are they connected to Jesus?
3. Take a look at the handout for this week, found here: Thecompass.net/EvidenceforJesus. Which true story from Jesus' four closest VIPs is the most compelling to you? And why is that? James (the confidant), Peter (his betrayer), James (the brother), or Paul (his nemesis)?
4. Many early believers in the church willingly gave up their lives because they wholeheartedly believed that Jesus was more than just a good man on earth. Jeff points out that nobody would willingly die for a lie. What is the significance that Jesus was more than just a good teacher?

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know." (Acts 2:22, NIV)

5. Going back to the first week of this sermon series we examined John chapter 20, where we meet three people in their doubts after encountering a resurrected Christ.

The end of that chapter concludes in John 20:30-31 ... *"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* (NIV)

Why are Jesus' stories written down in the Bible? What kind of life does God want for the world?

6. Read Matthew 16:15, where Jesus is talking to his disciples.

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

As we reach the conclusion of this sermon series, who do you say that Jesus is? How have your doubts been addressed?

Wrapping It Up: When you think about the proof discussed that Jesus is real, thank God for giving you a heart to grow in your faith. Share in your group how you can best support each other on your journey to follow God in even more meaningful ways — and to help others find Him too.