

Trusting Jesus in a Wild Word

Life gets wild, doesn't it? It has a way of surprising us.

When life gets wild, we need something—someone—we can count on. That's why, all last week at Vacation Bible School, we spent time with our kindergarten through 5th grade students learning how to find our "True North." The one thing that never changes—even when everything else does. The one place of refuge when life spins out of control.

And that one thing—really, that one **Person—is Jesus.**

WHEN LIFE GETS WILD - TRUST JESUS.

That's what we learned last week with the kids, but then we didn't stop at just that phrase. We looked at **5 different wild moments** that come up in life.

Wild Moment #1 - When we wonder... we can TRUST JESUS. (John 14:5-6).

When it comes to Jesus, our world is full of skeptics, critics, and mockers. Some deny that

Jesus is God. Others claim the Bible has been mistranslated. Still others question whether Jesus really rose from the dead. And sometimes, those voices can start to chip away at our confidence.

But here's the good news we taught our kids this week: **When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.** He's not afraid of our questions. He invites us to bring them to Him. In fact, one of His own disciples, Thomas, asked one of the most important questions ever asked: *How do we get to heaven?*

In John 14:5-6, Jesus didn't say the way to heaven is by being a good person, getting baptized, going to church, or giving money. He didn't say it was by obeying the Ten Commandments or praying every day. He said **He is the way**—the only way—to the Father.

Wild Moment #2 - When we feel alone... we can TRUST JESUS (Luke 15:4-7).

Have you ever been surrounded by people—and still felt completely alone? Maybe you've felt invisible, unnoticed, or forgotten. That happens more than we like to admit. Sometimes, the

weight of life gets so heavy, you begin to believe the lie that says: *“No one cares.”* Or worse, *“I don’t even matter.”*

In Luke 15, Jesus tells a story about a shepherd and a sheep. But really, it’s a story about His heart for you and me: The sheep wandered off. No one else even noticed. But the Shepherd noticed. The Shepherd went looking. And when He found that one lost sheep—He didn’t scold it. He rejoiced over it. He carried it home. This story reminds us that **Jesus came for the one.** He came for the lost, the broken, the forgotten, and the lonely.

So if you’ve ever felt like you don’t belong...
If you’ve felt like you’re unwanted, or like no one notices...Remember this: **Jesus notices you.**

**Wild Moment #3 - When we feel powerless...
we can trust Jesus (Matthew 8:5-13).**

Life has a way of knocking the wind out of us. We face challenges we can’t fix, problems we can’t solve, and temptations we can’t seem to overcome. There are moments when we feel completely powerless—like no matter how hard we try, we just keep falling short.

You don't have the power to conquer every temptation or fix every problem.

But **Jesus does**.

And when we feel powerless, it's not the end, it's the beginning of discovering that we can take our problems to Jesus, and trust Him with the outcome.

In **Matthew 8**, we see this kind of faith in action. A Roman centurion—a military officer—comes to Jesus, desperate. His servant is paralyzed and suffering. There's nothing he can do to help him. But rather than give in to despair, he comes to the only One who can help.

Wild Moment #4 - When we need hope... we can TRUST JESUS (Matthew 12:21)

Matthew 12:21 says that in *his name the Gentiles will hope*.

Jesus came bringing hope. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. He lived the perfect life we failed to live. And then, He took our place—dying a brutal, bloody death on the cross, suffering the wrath of

God that we deserved. He was beaten, mocked, spit upon, nailed to a cross—why?

Because He loves you. Because He was paying your penalty. He was buried in a tomb, and three days later—He rose from the dead.

Jesus said in John 11:25: *“I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in Me**, though he die, yet shall he live.”* It’s not that “good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell.”

It’s this: **Believers in Jesus go to heaven.**

Unbelievers don’t (2 Thess. 1:8-9;). That’s the dividing line.

Wild moment #5 - When we need help... we can TRUST JESUS (Matthew 28:18-20; Eph. 1:13)

Spreading the gospel is the greatest calling in the world—and also one of the most intimidating. If Jesus had simply given us the Great Commission and then left us to figure it out on our own, we *would* be in trouble. We *would* feel the weight. But He didn’t. He gave us a promise: *“And behold, I am with you always.”*

We are not alone in this mission. Jesus Himself is with us. And not only that—He's given us a Helper. From the moment you placed your faith in Jesus, the Spirit of God—*the Spirit of Jesus Himself - the Holy Spirit*—came to live in you. He's your Helper. And He helps you with *everything*.