



Small Group Guide: The Year to Believe

Series: The Year to Believe

Scripture: John 20:30-31

Main Idea: Moving from intellectual agreement about God to actively trusting Him with every area of our lives

Key Scripture

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." - **John 20:30-31**

Sermon Summary

- Belief is not just intellectual agreement but actively trusting God
- True believing is a verb—ongoing, habitual, and constant
- Believing leads to divine results (Zoe life)
- Biblical evidence gives us reason to believe
- We must get "in the wheelbarrow" with God, not just cheer from the sidelines

Discussion Questions

Understanding Belief

1. The Wheelbarrow Illustration

The sermon opened with a story about a tightrope walker and a wheelbarrow. Everyone cheered and said they believed he could cross with someone in the wheelbarrow, but no one volunteered.

- How does this illustration challenge your understanding of what it means to believe in God?
- What's the difference between believing about God and believing in God?

The Nature of Biblical Belief

2. Trusting God's Character

The sermon explained that believing means "to put trust in, to rely upon, or entrust oneself to someone."

- Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does it look like practically to "lean not on your own understanding"?
- How does our perception of who God is affect our ability to trust Him?

3. Evidence-Based Faith

The pastor emphasized that our faith isn't blind—it's based on evidence from Scripture.

- Which miracle or biblical account most strengthens your faith? Why?
- How can we use biblical evidence to combat doubt when it arises?

Personal Application

4. Areas of Unbelief

The sermon challenged us to identify where we've climbed out of the wheelbarrow and started relying on our own strength.

- In what area of your life have you stopped believing God can work? (finances, health, relationships, children, career, etc.)
- What caused you to stop believing in that area?

5. The Zoe Life

The sermon taught that eternal life (Zoe) isn't just about heaven later—it's divine life impacting us now.

- Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. What does it mean to be "partakers of the divine nature"?
- Have you experienced God's life transforming your biological or psychological life? Share your testimony.

6. Chronic Issues

The healing of the paralytic who was sick for 38 years was highlighted.

- Do you have a "chronic issue" you've stopped believing God can heal or change?
- How does knowing that "God has been God longer than you've been sick" encourage you?

Key Takeaways

Have group members share which of these resonates most with them:

- Believing is a verb, not just a noun - It requires ongoing action and trust
- True belief means getting in the wheelbarrow - Entrusting ourselves completely to God
- Believing leads to divine results - God's Zoe life transforms our natural life
- Our belief should be evidence-based - Scripture provides proof of God's faithfulness
- God can handle anything - There is nothing too hard for Him

Practical Applications

Individual Commitments

This Week, I Will:

Choose 1-2 actions to commit to:

- Identify one area where I've been operating in my own strength and consciously "get back in the wheelbarrow" by praying and surrendering that area to God daily
- Start praying bigger prayers - Write down one "big prayer" that scares me because of how much faith it requires, and pray it daily
- Study God's faithfulness - Read through one Gospel account of Jesus' miracles and journal about what it reveals about God's character
- Confess belief - Each morning, declare out loud: "I believe God is [provider/healer/deliverer/etc.] in my situation with [specific issue]"
- Break unbelief - Identify one limiting belief about what God can't do in my life and replace it with Scripture that proves He can