



Summer at Parkview - Week 1 June 29-30, 2019 | Pastor Todd Clark

This weekend, Pastor Todd talks about fixing our faith on Jesus as we kick off our Summer at Parkview series.

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. What has been the highlight of your summer? Share a little bit about what it's been.
2. Talk about a belief you held as a child that changed as you got older. Maybe it changed as you matured, entered the working world or got into a relationship.

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. Faith is not some invisible force or step-by-step formula.
2. A person can gain or lose faith depending on what their faith is fixed to.

3. Some of us were raised to believe that as long as we did "ABC" that God would do "DE & F."
4. Lifestyle decisions and unexplainable circumstances are things that can cause people's faith to crash.
5. We believe because of something that happened, not something that we hope will happen in our lives.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11, Hebrews 12:2

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that stuck with you. Share why it stuck out to you.
2. Think about the most life-altering moment in your life. Talk about what happened and how it flipped your world upside down.
3. Read John 20:24-29. Read slowly, making a note of words or phrases that stand out to you. This passage comes as Jesus had been crucified and put into the tomb. One of the disciples (who we often times refer to as "Doubting Thomas"), had lost faith amidst the circumstances of seeing Jesus die. His doubt came as the thing he fixed his faith to faltered.
4. Thomas slowly lost faith as he spent a week waiting for Jesus, but never seeing Him. Talk about a time when you found yourself waiting on God to do something or answer a prayer. What happened to your hope and faith as you spent more time *waiting*?
5. It can be hard to keep a strong faith when it's leaning on circumstances and lifestyle decisions. What are some things in your life that you put your faith in that aren't Jesus? Talk about the things that distract you from fixing your eyes on Him.
6. The root of Thomas' doubt is really that He needed to see Jesus to believe in Him. However, in John 20:29, Jesus says, "[...] blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed." We don't necessarily get to physically walk with Jesus or touch His nail-pierced hands in the present day. But that doesn't mean we can't know Him and believe in Him. Share what gives you confident faith in Jesus, even though you might not be able to physically touch Him.
7. Pastor Todd said, "We believe because of something that happened, not something that we hope will happen in our lives." As we go into this next week, brainstorm 2 or 3 ideas of some daily practices that you could do to remind yourself that Jesus isn't a blind hope, but a bold reality.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for taking on flesh to become Jesus. We come to you knowing that your sacrifice and crucifixion isn't just *some* story but the true story of our salvation. We thank you for the ways in which you're moving in our lives, even when we're too blind to see it. This week, give us eyes to see all that you're doing. We know that you are who you say you are, so help us live with the confidence this week.
Amen.