

Small Group Study Guide
Series: **NOT ANOTHER RELIGION**
Sermon 14: SOMEBODY IS LYING

Is It Islam, Mormonism, Catholicism or New Testament Christianity?
September 20, 2026 | CrossPointe Church
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◆ **INTRODUCTION**

In **SOMEBODY IS LYING**, PT follows Paul's announcement in Acts 13 that Jesus was rejected, killed, buried, and raised, then asks whether the resurrection can survive honest historical scrutiny. The message weighs early testimony, named witnesses, outside confirmation, and transformed lives; measures Islam, Mormonism, Catholicism, radical ideology, secularism, and modern Christianity against the crucified and risen Christ; and ends with the three responses to the resurrection in Acts 17. We can mock, delay, or believe, but the empty tomb leaves no safe neutrality: through Jesus forgiveness is proclaimed, and everyone who believes is justified.

◆ **KEY SCRIPTURES**

- **Acts 13:1–12** — The Holy Spirit sends Barnabas and Saul. When Bar-Jesus tries to keep a Roman official from the truth, Paul exposes the counterfeit influence that is creating spiritual blindness.
- **Acts 13:26–39** — Paul announces that Jesus was rejected, executed, buried, and raised by God. Through this risen Christ, forgiveness is proclaimed and everyone who believes is freed and justified.
- **Acts 17:22–34** — Paul proclaims the risen Christ in Athens. Some mock, some postpone/delay a decision, and some believe and publicly identify with the message.

◆ **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. The resurrection is Christianity's make-or-break claim. If it is false, the faith collapses; if it is true, Jesus has authority over you. Have you honestly examined the evidence, or have you rejected it because accepting it would require repentance and surrender? (*1 Corinthians 15:14–17*)
2. PT said, "The resurrection isn't what remains after Christians stop thinking." Are you applying a tougher standard to the resurrection than you apply to Caesar, Alexander, or other ancient history? Which piece of evidence do you find hardest to explain away—and why? (*Luke 1:1–4; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8*)
3. Bar-Jesus did not have to make Sergius Paulus hate Jesus; he only had to keep him from seeing clearly. What voice, wound, habit, political loyalty, spiritual influencer, or preferred sin is currently blurring your view of Christ? (*Acts 13:6–12*)
4. When someone says Muslims and Christians honor the same Jesus, are you tempted to agree just to avoid tension? How can you state plainly that Islam denies the cross and Christ's divine Sonship without treating a Muslim neighbor with fear or contempt? (*Acts 13:28–39; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4*)
5. PT said, "The warning sign isn't ethnicity. It is coercive ideology." Can you confront coercive religious ideology without prejudging every Muslim you meet? Which failure is closer to you: cowardice disguised as compassion, or prejudice disguised as discernment?
6. It is easy to expose Islam, Mormonism, or Catholicism while ignoring counterfeit Christianity in ourselves. Which substitute do you prefer—Republican Jesus, Democrat Jesus, therapist Jesus, prosperity Jesus, American Jesus, or a Jesus who never confronts your sin? (*Acts 13:32–39*)
7. "Don't confuse a hard heart with an intelligent mind." Have you mocked the resurrection inwardly, used skepticism to protect a wound or sin, or treated believers as gullible? What

truth have you refused to face because your mind was already made up? (*Acts 17:32; Matthew 7:13–14*)

8. “The devil doesn’t need you to say ‘never’ if he can keep you saying ‘not today.’” What act of repentance, salvation, baptism, forgiveness, confession, or obedience are you postponing? What makes you think tomorrow belongs to you? (*Acts 17:32; 2 Corinthians 6:2*)
9. Acts 17 says some believed and joined Paul. Have you truly trusted the risen Christ, or do you only agree with Christian ideas, attend Christian gatherings, and borrow Christian language? What would public belief require from you now? (*Acts 17:34; Acts 13:38–39*)

◆ PASTOR’S BEST QUOTES

- *“They placed a period at the tomb. God turned it into the opening line of the Gospel and His public verdict over His Son.”*
- *“Religion gives sinners a ladder, but the Gospel gives sinners a Savior.”*
- *“Truth can survive an honest examination.”*
- *“Christianity didn’t begin with people saying Jesus was a good teacher. It exploded because people said the man Rome killed was alive.”*
- *“A Jesus who wasn’t crucified can’t carry my sin. A Jesus who didn’t rise can’t conquer my death.”*
- *“The Gospel doesn’t need a sword at somebody’s throat. The risen Christ can reach somebody’s heart.”*
- *“Jesus told us to make disciples, not take hostages.”*
- *“Speaking the truth in love doesn’t mean trimming the truth until nobody can feel its edge.”*
- *“We don’t have to make another religion look ridiculous to make Jesus look glorious.”*

◆ ACTION PROMPTS

- **BUILD YOUR CASE:** Read Acts 13:26–39, Luke 1:1–4, and 1 Corinthians 15:3–8. Write down three pieces of evidence for the resurrection and one honest question you still need to investigate.
- **IDENTIFY YOUR COUNTERFEIT:** Name the version of Jesus you are most tempted to prefer—political, therapeutic, prosperous, cultural, powerless, or safely nonconfrontational. Surrender that substitute to the Jesus revealed in Scripture.
- **SPEAK TRUTH WITHOUT CONTEMPT:** Ask a Muslim, Mormon, Catholic, skeptic, or nominal Christian what they believe about Jesus. Listen carefully, then explain the cross and resurrection clearly without compromise, mockery, or fear.

◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for raising Jesus from the dead and giving us a faith rooted in what You did in history. Give us courage to examine the evidence honestly. Tear down every counterfeit Jesus we have shaped around our politics, preferences, pride, or fear, and bring us back to Your crucified and risen Son.

Teach us to speak the truth without contempt and to love people without pretending contradictory beliefs are the same. Protect us from cowardice, prejudice, exaggeration, and anger. Give us conviction in our spine, compassion in our voice, and wisdom to point Muslims, Mormons, Catholics, skeptics, and nominal Christians to the real Jesus.

Search our hearts for mockery, delay, and unbelief. For anyone who has never trusted Christ, let today be the day of salvation. For those who already believe, make us bold witnesses who live like the tomb is empty, forgiveness is available, and Jesus is Lord. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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