



Small Group Curriculum

Topic: **BELIEVE**

Many people believe that there **IS** a Jesus, but this is not the same as believing **IN** Jesus. We begin to believe in Jesus and who He says He is once we begin to follow Him.

After Jesus was crucified, John, the beloved disciple who spent three intimate years with Jesus, looks back on that time and summarises in his memoirs why he thought Jesus had come.

John 1:17-18 (GW) Laws were given through Moses, but kindness and truth came into existence through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. God's only Son, the one who is closest to the Father's heart, has made Him known.

Jesus came and lived His life in a way so people would understand who God was. God the Creator and Father wanted to be known by His people.

John believed Jesus came to reveal who God was, so God may be known.

Jesus came to change the spiritual paradigm of:

- How to **relate** to God
- How to **think** about God
- How to **approach** God

The disciples went from believing in Jesus' teachings onto believing **IN** Jesus as the One sent by God to reveal God to His people.

John 6:60-69 (NIV) On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” ⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.** ⁶⁹ **We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.**”

Believing IN Jesus is the key to a relationship with God.

Romans 3:21-26 (NLT) But now God has shown us a way to be made right with Him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for He was looking ahead and including them in what He would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus.

The invitation to follow and believe **IN** Jesus is not just for good people or for informed people - it is for everybody! When this message of hope captivates the human heart, it impacts our behaviour.

The goal is to be so convinced of **WHO** Jesus is and so grateful for **WHAT** Jesus has done, we willingly choose to **DO** what Jesus says!

A right standing with God is available only through Jesus to **ALL** who **BELIEVE** in Him!

Romans 3:21a-22 (nlt) But now God has shown us a way to be made right with Him ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

True believing is believing in who Jesus says He is and what He has done that leads us to obey Him!

