

What Does It Mean To Really Believe?

Stretching little faith into big faith:

John 4:43-54, Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 8:15-13, 17:14-20, Hebrews 11:6

The dad saw a Jesus...

Who had **LIMITS** on His **POWER**.

Who needed to be **INSTRUCTED**, not **SURRENDERED TO**.

Who was a means to get **WHAT HE WANTED**,
not a **LORD WORTHY** of worship.

Three stages of belief:

John 4:43-54, 3:16-18, 20:21

INTELLECTUAL Faith:

A **HEAD KNOWLEDGE** of who Jesus was
and what He did.

TEMPORAL Faith:

A belief that God can **FIX** what **MY PROBLEM** is.

SAVING Faith:

A belief that puts all of our **HOPE AND TRUST** in
WHO JESUS IS and what **HE'S DONE** for us.

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Stretching little faith into big faith:

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The dad saw a Jesus...

Who had _____ on His _____.

Who needed to be _____, not _____.

Who was a means to get _____,
not a _____ of worship.

Three stages of belief:

John 4:43-54, 3:16-18, 20:21

_____ Faith:

A _____ of who Jesus was
and what He did.

_____ Faith:

A belief that God can _____ what _____ is.

_____ Faith:

A belief that puts all of our _____ in
_____ and what _____ for us.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of March 12, 2023

This week is your last meeting of the Winter Quarter. We hope you've found your time over these past nine weeks to be spiritually and relationally encouraging. The questions have been shortened to allow you time to take Communion. We'll take a two-week break, then the Spring Quarter begins the week of April 2 and runs through May 27. Please be sure to confirm your plans for the Spring Quarter with your leader.

MY STORY

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

This weekend Chris talked about the three stages of faith. As you heard them explained, how do they relate to your story of faith and following Jesus?

Jesus wants to stretch our faith from simple head knowledge to one that transforms us and impacts others. This has been the theme of the first ten weeks of our study in the book of John. As we close the Winter Quarter, take a moment to think back on what you've learned, marked in your Bible or written in your notes about the themes we've covered (some are below). What has stuck with you so far?

Nothing reveals character more than when ours is attacked or needs to be decreased.

Greatness can only be achieved when we understand that our purpose is to: Make Jesus greater and more visible. Make ourselves less and less visible.

When it's time to share, answer when asked and earn the right to be heard.

He is a God who is still fighting for us, available to us, and making the changes in us.

Jesus is not a soft savior. Jesus is passionate about you!

God wants worshippers in spirit and truth, not religion and ritual.

Our past will be Satan's greatest weapon against us, or God's most powerful tool for us.

There's a faith that brings your problems to Jesus, and then there's a faith that brings your family to Jesus.

REMEMBERING THE SOURCE OF OUR SAVING FAITH

A saving faith puts its hope and trust in who Jesus is and what He's done for us. Yet the busyness, challenges and selfish distractions of life can cause us to forget the power of what Jesus has done for us. As you read the passages below, jot down all they say about what Jesus has done for you. Is there one you think most people miss? Which one stands out to you?

John 10:10-11 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* ¹¹ *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

Romans 5:9-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* ¹⁰ *For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!* ¹¹ *Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Hebrews 4:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.* ¹⁵ *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.* ¹⁶ *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

1 Peter 1:3-5 New International Version (NIV)

³ *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* ⁴ *and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,* ⁵ *who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

This week in your Life Group, you will be taking Communion to remember what Jesus has done for us. Communion is the very symbol and reminder of our need for God and all that He has done for us— forgiveness, a costly sacrifice through His son Jesus, a new life and a new relationship with our almighty God.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,* ²⁴ *and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."* ²⁵ *In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."* ²⁶ *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

**If you would like to take Communion individually, feel free to use the video at northcoastchurch.com/communion to help lead you through a time of remembrance and thankfulness for what Jesus has done for you.*

PRAYER REQUESTS



Loving and serving others is one of the foundations of North Coast, and every other year for the last 15 years(!), we've chosen a weekend where, in lieu of meeting for weekend services, we all head out to BE the church to our surrounding cities.

We call it Serve Your City, and it's an opportunity to serve our local communities in three different ways: Giving, Serving, and Loving.

On April 29 & 30, we will do it again! The Church will leave the building! No in-person services will be held as we head out into our local communities to serve our cities in the name of Jesus.

Register yourself, your family and friends or your Life Group for a community service project today! Scan the QR code or go to northcoastchurch.com.