



Sermon Series:

I Believe

Speaker: Rod Heppell

Date: April 14, 2024



GROUP GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: What is one scientific discovery you believe because of the authority of someone else that you would like to confirm by seeing for yourself? (The earth being round, gravity as space-time bending, the center of the earth being lava, nothing can go faster than light, etc)

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. C.S. Lewis wrote about Jesus saying, in essence, that we didn't need yet another moral teacher, we needed a saviour. However, Jesus did teach about the Kingdom and how to live within it. When you think of Jesus' teaching, is there any one story, phrase, or lesson that stands out to you? Any that confuse or guide you in your living?
2. But Jesus didn't just come to teach, he came to deal with the problems we can't: sin and death. Was there ever a time where you thought you didn't need saving? Did you ever think Jesus was just some decent teacher? Can you pinpoint a moment where you realized you needed saving?
3. After Jesus accomplished everything for our salvation (living, dying, rising) he ascended. Take a moment to read [Ephesians 4:10](#) and collectively ponder the phrase "that he might fill all things." What did it mean for Jesus to ascend and how did that open the way for him to "fill all things"?
4. Take a moment to read Acts 1:9-11. How do you think you would have reacted to Jesus floating up to the sky? In light of the Old Testament's use of the "cloud of glory" ([2 Chronicles 5:14](#); [1 Kings 8:11](#); [Ezekiel 10:4](#); and [Exodus 40:35](#)) - what do you think is the significance of the cloud covering him?
5. The angels ask "why do you stand looking into the sky?" which Rod shared was a way of saying "get on with it!" They had seen and believed and now had a mission to carry out. They were given assurance that Jesus would return. Is Jesus' return something you think about often? How might that truth help you as you carry out the mission here on earth?

6. Rod talked about the relationship between belief and action, that true belief leads to action. Take a moment to read James 2:14-26. It's a bit of a longer section, but share what stands out. How do you understand the relationship between faith and deeds?
7. Just as the apostles faith led them to live out the great commission, so our faith leads us to live it out. In what ways does your faith affect your daily actions, decisions, attitudes, etc.? Are there aspects of your life where your faith still has some work to do to affect your actions?
8. You'll hear churches say mission and vision statements. Have you ever thought of your own life's mission? How much does Jesus' great commission influence your life's mission? What would it look like in your life to live out the great commission, taking into account your personality, life scenario, circumstances, stage of life, etc?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Pray for one open door for someone in your life to be able to be a witness to them of the love of Jesus.



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LEADER GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: What is one scientific discovery you believe because of the authority of someone else that you would like to confirm by seeing for yourself? (The earth being round, gravity as space-time bending, the center of the earth being lava, nothing can go faster than light, etc)

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, we gather here trusting that right now you are on your heavenly throne. You are all-seeing, all-knowing, all-mighty. Guide us here and now by the Holy Spirit that you have sent to live in us - lead us into all wisdom and knowledge that we might know you deeper and live more surrendered to you. Amen.*

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. C.S. Lewis wrote about Jesus saying, in essence, that we didn't need yet another moral teacher, we needed a saviour. However, Jesus did teach about the Kingdom and how to live within it. When you think of Jesus' teaching, is there any one story, phrase, or lesson that stands out to you? Any that confuse or guide you in your living? **Consider looking to the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5,6,7) for many kingdom values, but also some confusing instructions.**
2. But Jesus didn't just come to teach, he came to deal with the problems we can't: sin and death. Was there ever a time where you thought you didn't need saving? Did you ever think Jesus was just some decent teacher? Can you pinpoint a moment where you realized you needed saving? **It could be either 'saving' for the first time, or even a sense of needing help and saving while already being a Christian.**
3. After Jesus accomplished everything for our salvation (living, dying, rising) he ascended. Take a moment to read [Ephesians 4:10](#) and collectively ponder the phrase "that he might fill all things." What did it mean for Jesus to ascend and how did that open the way for him to "fill all things"? **Consider how if Jesus were still on earth, those most proximal to him would know him more, but through the Spirit we can all know him the same.**
4. Take a moment to read Acts 1:9-11. How do you think you would have reacted to Jesus floating up to the sky? In light of the Old Testament's use of the "cloud of

glory” ([2 Chronicles 5:14](#); [1 Kings 8:11](#); [Ezekiel 10:4](#); and [Exodus 40:35](#)) - what do you think is the significance of the cloud covering him? **Ideas around him being God and him being glorious.**

5. The angels ask “why do you stand looking into the sky?” which Rod shared was a way of saying “get on with it!” They had seen and believed and now had a mission to carry out. They were given assurance that Jesus would return. Is Jesus’ return something you think about often? How might that truth help you as you carry out the mission here on earth?
6. Rod talked about the relationship between belief and action, that true belief leads to action. Take a moment to read James 2:14-26. It’s a bit of a longer section, but share what stands out. How do you understand the relationship between faith and deeds? **Consider one of the quotes from the reformation “we live by faith alone, but not faith that is alone...”**
7. Just as the apostles faith led them to live out the great commission, so our faith leads us to live it out. In what ways does your faith affect your daily actions, decisions, attitudes, etc.? Are there aspects of your life where your faith still has some work to do to affect your actions?
8. You’ll hear churches say mission and vision statements. Have you ever thought of your own life’s mission? How much does Jesus’ great commission influence your life’s mission? What would it look like in your life to live out the great commission, taking into account your personality, life scenario, circumstances, stage of life, etc? **This would be your personal “vision” for life. How God’s mission works out in your specific life. What would it “look” like?**

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Pray for one open door for someone in your life to be able to be a witness to them of the love of Jesus.

(If helpful, break into groups of Men/Women or 3-4 people. I would also recommend not simply listing many disconnected things from far removed aspects of your life, friends, or family, but focusing on those things in your own lives that need prayer that come out of this message or that come out of your ‘highs and lows’, and if necessary a few brief requests for other things going on)

Resources

Hyperlinked Scripture:

[Acts 1:9-11 \(Ascension\)](#), [James 2:14-26 \(faith & deeds\)](#), [John 20:24-29 \(Thomas\)](#), [Matthew 28:16-20 \(Great Commission\)](#)

Resources:

[C.S. Lewis - Mere Christianity](#), [Sermon Podcast](#)