



Sermon Series:

I Believe

Speaker: Rod Heppell

Date: April 7, 2024



GROUP GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: If you could pick one person from the Easter story to hang out with for a day, who would you pick and why?

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. Thinking about your own faith journey, which elements of the Easter story resonate with you the most? Can you share why these aspects hold particular significance for you?
2. Rod shared about the relationship between conviction and awareness. How do you find these two things work together in your life? Have you ever had a moment where you became aware of something that eventually led to growth? What do you tend to do when you are made aware of things in your life you'd rather not be made aware of?
3. The idea of Jesus' ascension in order to send the Spirit to help us is explored many times in the New Testament. Consider this verse in Ephesians 4:10 "He who descended is the one who also ascended far above the heavens *that he might fill all things.*" How can Jesus now "fill all things" through his Spirit in a way that he couldn't before?
4. In John 3, Jesus talks with Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus seems to be wrestling with his control over his relationship with God and Jesus is calling him to surrender to God who works in a way that we can't control - like the wind. In what ways have you experienced this tension of God working in your life like the wind, in a way that you can't explain or "grasp"?
5. Picture yourself there on the Road to Emmaus walking with Jesus for 7 miles. What would you ask him about if you could ask anything about Scripture?
6. Have you ever had a moment where "your heart burned within you" either through hearing God's word, reading it, or having some truth from Scripture resonate with you deeply? Why might those moments sometimes happen and

how can you best respond when they do? How can you follow Jesus' call even when you might not be receiving those experiences or feelings all the time?

7. Rod shared that God speaks to us in many different ways. What are some of the avenues you've experienced that God speaks to you through? How can you be watching for those and even putting yourself in those paths of listening this week?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Pray for each other that you would have a heightened sense of hearing from God in the areas you need to hear from him this week.



Sermon Series:

I Believe

Speaker: Rod Heppell

Date: April 7, 2024

LEADER GUIDE



Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: If you could pick one person from the Easter story to hang out with for a day, who would you pick and why?

Prayer: *Lord, as we gather together, help us to be sensitive to your Holy Spirit's leading. May our hearts burn within us as we hear your word and talk about you. We invite your presence here. Help us to learn, grow, love, and hear from you today. Amen.*

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. Thinking about your own faith journey, which elements of the Easter story resonate with you the most? Can you share why these aspects hold particular significance for you?
2. Rod shared about the relationship between conviction and awareness. How do you find these two things work together in your life? Have you ever had a moment where you became aware of something that eventually led to growth? What do you tend to do when you are made aware of things in your life you'd rather not be made aware of? **Some examples might be, try to ignore it, justify it away, make excuses, try to suppress it, blame shift, or take it seriously, self-examine, try to change, seek God's mercy, etc.**
3. The idea of Jesus' ascension in order to send the Spirit to help us is explored many times in the New Testament. Consider this verse in Ephesians 4:10 "He who descended is the one who also ascended far above the heavens *that he might fill all things.*" How can Jesus now "fill all things" through his Spirit in a way that he couldn't before? **Consider that with the Holy Spirit dwelling in all believers Jesus' personal presence can now be in every heart, home, town, city, country, and continent at the same time. This is far more powerful than everyone traveling to one person located on earth (if Jesus had stayed).**
4. In John 3, Jesus talks with Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus seems to be wrestling with his control over his relationship with God and Jesus is calling him to surrender to God who works in a way that we can't control - like the wind. In what ways have you experienced this tension of God working in your life like the wind, in a way that you can't explain or "grasp"? **Consider the important idea of surrender in our walk with Jesus.**

5. Picture yourself there on the Road to Emmaus walking with Jesus for 7 miles. What would you ask him about if you could ask anything about Scripture?
6. Have you ever had a moment where “your heart burned within you” either through hearing God’s word, reading it, or having some truth from Scripture resonate with you deeply? Why might those moments sometimes happen and how can you best respond when they do? How can you follow Jesus’ call even when you might not be receiving those experiences or feelings all the time? **One of the best way to respond to these moments is to simply respond with surrender. “Lord, what would you have me do in light of this?” and wait for further conviction (whether to repent, say sorry to someone, seek advice from a friend, etc.)**
7. Rod shared that God speaks to us in many different ways. What are some of the avenues you’ve experienced that God speaks to you through? How can you be watching for those and even putting yourself in those paths of listening this week?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Pray for each other that you would have a heightened sense of hearing from God in the areas you need to hear from him this week.

Praying Together: Choose one area of life where you need to pray “I believe, help my unbelief” and then pray that for each other.

(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:

[John 12:32 \(When I am lifted up\)](#), [John 16:7 \(I will send the Advocate\)](#), [John 3 \(Nicodemus\)](#), [Luke 24 \(Road to Emmaus\)](#), [Romans 10 \(Anyone who calls\)](#)

Resources:

[Sermon Podcast](#)