

I Believe^(book two)...A study of questions of faith

Do you know what you believe? Can you articulate what you believe about the most fundamental questions of faith? Where did life come from? Was Jesus God or Man? Is there really a Heaven and Hell? Is Christianity 'one' way or one of many ways? What about unbelievers? What does it mean to 'walk by faith'? Where is Jesus now?

No matter where you are along the journey of your life, these questions demand your consideration. Have you worked out – FOR YOURSELF – what you believe about these questions? Can you articulate why (and offer proof) for what you believe to be true?

This 13-lesson series will NOT provide you answers to what you should believe (that is yours alone to work-out), but it will provide you a starting point for the inquiry into several of pressing faith questions. In fact, the scriptures selected to start your study are NOT completed and may not be the ones that most clearly describe each topic – but are selected to engage your thinking/consideration.

If you are not a believer in God and His work among men, it will provide you a systematic way to examine the questions demanding answers from you. If you are a believer, then this series perhaps can assist you in sharpening your understanding and ability to articulate clearly YOUR faith (not that of the minister, parent or friend). Either way, this lesson series is offered to you as a tool to explore and define what YOU believe about these questions of faith.

May God Bless you in this study..... Jim Ice

"... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." - 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

The Purpose of Instructional Program

This 13-lesson series is designed to

- Engage the seeker in a personal journey to build their own faith;
- Provide the seeker a starting point for their journey into the scriptures to build personal understanding;
- Encourage the seeker to identify new questions for inquiry;
- Engage a group to share their faith (based on knowledge); and,
- Challenge the seeker to articulate (and defend) a personal statement of their own beliefs related to each topic AND define specific implications of their faith in their daily lives.

Questions of Faith...

This series will address the following questions of faith:

- Week 1 - Where did life come from?*
- Week 2 - Adam & Eve: the fall of man or just a story?*
- Week 3 - Why two covenants with Man?*
- Week 4 - Was Jesus God?*
- Week 5 - Was Jesus Man?*
- Week 6 - Jesus' death and resurrection: salvation or a hoax?*
- Week 7 - Where is Jesus now?*
- Week 8 - Is there really a Heaven? Hell?*
- Week 9 - 'The' way – or one of many ways?*
- Week 10 – What about unbelievers?*
- Week 11 - What does God expect from me?*
- Week 12 - How do I worship 'in spirit and truth'?*
- Week 13 - What does it mean to 'live by faith'?*

General Study Questions:

Within each lesson we will ask the following questions:

- What do these scriptures reveal about the topic?
- What additional scriptures shed light on the topic?
- What additional study is required?
- What is the implication for my daily life?

How to Use this Program

This program is designed to facilitate your bible study and development of a stronger personal faith. This 13-lesson series can be used individually, in a group-based (classroom) study – or ideally, in a combination of both personal study and group discussion and sharing.

Each topic lesson will provide:

- A brief **introduction** to the topic.
- A few **inquiry questions** to stimulate your thinking/wonder.
- Seven **key scripture references** and space for your personal notes to help you INITIATE and DOCUMENT your study of the topic

Scripture	Notes
2 Timothy 3:16-17 *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture is “God Breathed” – from God • Useful for instruction in ‘right-living’

- Space for you to add **additional scripture references and/or notes** you discover during your study and discussions.
- Space to list **new questions** your study raises and/or areas where you desire additional focused study.

Personal Application – in addition each lesson provides you the opportunity to directly apply what you are learning, by providing you:

- Space for you to describe your (current) **statement of faith** related to this topic. Understanding that faith grows over time, and with additional study, a statement date is included. We **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** you to write out your faith statement as it will focus your thinking and provide you a wonderful reference point for review, additional study and witnessing later.

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...

Date: 2/12/15

...that the Bible is the inspired revelation of a holy and almighty God, intended to reveal who He is and His desire for relationship with man. I believe it holds truth and instruction for right living and salvation.

- Space for you to briefly outline the impact this believe will have in your life by describing an **action statement**. This statement describes the “so what” of your personal learning application.

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

... take His word seriously (believe what it says) and commit to study, memorize and apply His word through weekly personal bible studies.

(Optional) Pre-Test

Some participating in this study series might like to complete a “pre-test” to assess their current understanding of each of the topic areas and their ability to clearly articulate their individual “faith statements”. This assessment can also be used at the end of the series as well to explore how your faith has been enriched by the study of scripture.

1. Describe how life began.
2. Explain the origin and purpose of man.
3. Describe God’s two covenants with man.
4. Explain in what ways was Jesus God.
5. Explain in what ways was Jesus Man.
6. Articulate why God chose to become man.
7. Describe the role the crucifixion played in God’s salvation plan.
8. Describe the role the resurrection played in God’s salvation plan.
9. Explain what Jesus is doing now (until the second coming).
10. Outline the characteristics of heaven.
11. Outline the characteristics of hell.
12. Describe the judgment implications for believers and unbelievers.
13. Explain what it means to worship – in spirit and in truth.
14. Explain what men/women “must do be to be saved”.
15. Describe four acts that characterize someone who ‘lives by faith’.

Bonus: Describe why you decided to have a personal relationship with God.

(Optional) Scripture Memory Program

“I have hidden your word in my heart...” - Psalm 119:11a (NIV)

For each lesson in this workshop series two scriptures have been suggested as memory verses (marked with *) to help those who wish to build an active knowledge and ready use of the scriptures. The following steps may help you to write the scripture on your heart:

1. Look up the verse in your own bible
2. Pray for God to stamp the verse on your heart
3. Read the Verse in context.
4. Get the meaning of the Verse.
5. Read the Verse aloud.

6. Print/Type the Verse on a small card.
7. Practice (4 times without mistakes).
8. Review Daily.

1. WHERE DID LIFE COME FROM?

Perhaps the oldest questions mankind has asked are “where did we come from?” and “why are we here?” These are deep and challenging questions, requiring each of us to come to grips with how we believe we fit into the larger cosmos around us. Some people suggest that mankind is a wonderful accident, while others believe we are part of a designed plan. Is there a purpose or our existence? What is your view?

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Where did this world come from? What is its purpose?
- How did man/woman come to be? What is our purpose?
- How does man fit into the cosmos? Is there a intended design?
- Are physical science and God’s creation story at odds?

Scripture	Notes
Genesis 1-2	
Isaiah 40:28*	
Hebrew 3:4	
Genesis 1:26-28	
Psalm 139:13-14	

Scripture	Notes
Ephesians 2:10*	
Isaiah 45:9	
Additional References/Notes:	
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:	

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

--

2. ADAM & EVE: THE FALL OF MAN OR JUST A STORY?

To be 'fully human' is to experience the emotions of joy, anger, sorrow and guilt. It is to struggle with the questions of 'right' and 'wrong'. The Genesis story of Adam and his wife Eve tell of their encounter with satan (the devil). Throughout the Bible this story continues as we see the struggle between good and evil. Even in our own lives we all must made difficult choices and live with the consequences of our decisions.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Why were Adam and Eve tempted to disobey?
- What are the characteristics of the one in the form of the serpent?
- Why is there evil? Why must there be consequences?
- What were the consequences of their sin? of my sin?

Scripture	Notes
Genesis 2-3	
Romans 3:10-24	
Romans 5:18-21	

1 Corinthians 15:21-22	
Ephesians 6:12*	

Scripture	Notes
Romans 1:18-32	
1 Peter 5:8*	
Additional References/Notes:	
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:	

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:
---------------------------------------	-------

--

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

3. WHY TWO COVENANTS WITH MAN?

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. Most of us at only point in our lives have made a promise to God, if He would just help us through a jam. However, did you know that throughout time God has established multiple covenants with His people, full of promises and benefits. These covenants help us understand God’s plan for man.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- What was the purpose of the first covenant?
- How was that covenant fulfilled?
- Why did we need covenant of grace?
- What are the terms of this ‘new’ covenant?

Scripture	Notes
Exodus 19:5-8	

Exodus 20	
Exodus 24:3-8	
Jeremiah 31:31-34	
Galatians 3:24*	

Scripture	Notes
Hebrews 8:4-13	
Matthew 5:17-19	
Additional References/Notes:	

Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe... Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

4. WAS JESUS GOD?

How could God be born into our world? How could a holy and divine God dwell among the unrighteous people of earth? It is critical to understand the nature of Jesus and His claim to be 'One with God'. Jesus claimed that "if you have seen me, you have seen the Father". This truth gives even more meaning to His life and sacrifice.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- What did prophesy say about Jesus?
- Who did Jesus say He was? Son of God or God himself?
- How did His actions demonstrate He was God?
- Why is it important to understand His nature as God?

Scripture	Notes
Isaiah 7:14*	
Daniel 7:13-14	
John 1:14*	
Philippians 2:6-11	
John 10:30-38	

Scripture	Notes
John 8:58	
Colossians 1:15-20	

Additional References/Notes:

Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe... Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

5. WAS JESUS MAN?

Perhaps if Jesus was God, he was not truly man. Perhaps He lived His life on earth without the difficulties that you and I must endure. His story demonstrates how he was in every way truly human – from his

I believe... a study of questions of faith

birth, through his ministry and even until His death. How could He be both God and Man? This is a critical question of faith we must address.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Why did Jesus choose to come to earth as a child?
- Who did Jesus say He was? why Son of Man?
- Why are the witnesses to His life (and death) so important?
- How does Jesus being human enrich our lives?

Scripture	Notes
1 John 4:2-3 *	
Phil 2:5-8	
1 Timothy 2:5-7	
John 8:39-40	
Hebrews 5:7-9	

Scripture	Notes
-----------	-------

I believe... a study of questions of faith

Hebrews 2:14-17	
Romans 1:3	
Additional References/Notes:	
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:	

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

6. JESUS RESURRECTION: SALVATION OR HOAX?

Death is the ultimate enemy – one we all must face and that ultimately wins as we all die. The New Testament tells the story of Jesus death, burial... and resurrection. The idea of being able to break the bonds of death is a central theme in Christianity. However, some suggest that His resurrection is the greatest hoax ever propagated on mankind.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Did Jesus really die? How could God die?
- How could He have been raised from the dead?
- What did Jesus Say about His death and resurrection?
- Why is Jesus' resurrection mean for me?

Scripture	Notes
Mark 16:6*	
John 11:25-27	
Luke 24:1-7	
Matthew 28:5-7	

1 Thes 4:14	
------------------------	--

Scripture	Notes
1 Cor 15:3-4; 21	
Romans 6:5-7	
Additional References/Notes:	
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:	

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:
---------------------------------------	-------

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

7. WHERE IS JESUS NOW?

It is interesting to talk to Christians about what they believe about where Jesus is now. Some think He is in heaven, waiting for us to join Him. Others believe He is still active here on earth intervening in the lives of His people. We know about His life and work here on earth, but His role in heaven, in the church and in our lives today?

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Once Jesus was raised – was He human?
- Why would He leave at the height of His glory?
- What is Jesus role now that He fulfilled His mission?
- How did God respond to Jesus obedience?

Scripture	Notes
John 14:2-3 *	

Acts 1:9-11	
Matthew 28:20 *	
Eph 2:6	
Matthew 22:43-45	

Scripture	Notes
1 Peter 3:22	
Luke 21:25-27	
Additional References/Notes:	

Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe... Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

8. IS THERE REALLY A HEAVEN? HELL?

Questions about the afterlife have been asked since the beginning of time. It is natural for mankind to want to know what comes after the physical experience here on earth. The possibility of an afterlife gives this life even more meaning, as we consider the consequences our choices will have on our standing (reward/punishment) in the next life.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- What happens after our death?
- What (where) is heaven? What (where) is hell?
- Would God punish those who do not choose to follow Him ?
- How does heaven and hell impact your obedience?

Scripture	Notes
2 Corinthians 5:10 *	
Psalm 96:13	
Revelation 20:10-15	
John 14:2-3	
Matthew 25:31-46	

Scripture	Notes
Revelation 21:1-27	
Romans 2:6-8	

Additional References/Notes:
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

9. "THE" WAY – OR ONE OF MANY WAYS?

In today's world there are many religions. Most religions claim a creator (all powerful) and set in place the expectations of that creator for mankind. Three of these religions (Judaism, Islam and Christianity) can all be tracked back to one man – Abraham and his wives Sarah and

Hagar. Therefore, many will ask “Does it really matter what we believe as long as we worship God and recognize His power over man?”

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Is Christianity the only way to God?
- What about the faithful in other religions?
- What about the Jews?
- How do you teach Christ to other religions?

Scripture	Notes
John 14:6 *	
Acts 4:12 *	
1 Timothy 2:5	
John 3:16-18; 36	
John 5:23	

Scripture	Notes
-----------	-------

Revelation 5:6	
Hebrews 9:14-15	
Additional References/Notes:	
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:	

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

10. WHAT ABOUT UNBELIEVERS?

One of the most difficult discussions with new believers, who have recognized the consequences of their behavior and their need for a savior, is the implications for those they love who have not realized their personal need for a savior. It is hard to balance our fear for their life choices, our desire for them to find what we have found and an understanding that it must be their decision to follow Jesus.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Are unbelievers lost?
- How should we approach the unbeliever?
- How can we best demonstrate God's love for others?
- How is the unbeliever different than the believer?

Scripture	Notes
Numbers 14:11	
John 9:39-41	
John 3:16-18*	
2 Corinthians 4:4	

1 John 3:7-10	
------------------	--

Scripture	Notes
2 Corinthians 6:14-18	
1 Timothy 2:3-6	

Additional References/Notes:

Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...

Date:

--

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

11. WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM ME?

Once we learn from the scriptures our need for a savior and respond to His gift of love, it draws us to want to respond to grace extended to us. How can we respond to the free gift of salvation? God calls His children to a differentiated life – of joy, service and love. What is my mission and calling in His service?

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- How should I live in response to His grace?
- How will my life reflect His unconditional love?
- How can I share my faith - in a loving way?
- Must my life be like the lives of other believers?

Scripture	Notes
Matthew 22:36-40 *	

Micah 6:8 *	
Matthew 7:1-29	
Galatians 5:22-26	
Romans 12:1-2	

Scripture	Notes
1 Thessalonians 5:16-22	
Matthew 28:18-20	
Additional References/Notes:	

Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe... Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

Scripture	Notes
John 4:23-24 *	
Isaiah 12:5 *	
Psalms 95:1-6	
Psalms 150:1-6	
Colossians 3:16	

12. HOW DO I WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH?

Travel down any road in a major city and you will see churches advertising different ‘types’ of worship services – from traditional to modern, from live to video to on-line. Does how we worship God matter? Does the form or process make a difference to God? In John 4:24 we are taught: “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.” What does it mean for our worship?

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- Does God outline a specific pattern He desired for His worship?
- How does tradition impact our worship practice?
- How do you prefer to worship? Why?
- When to you worship? Why?

Scripture	Notes
1 Corinthians 14:26-28	
Matthew 15:9	

Additional References/Notes:

Additional Questions Raised/Study Required:

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe... Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

13. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ‘LIFE BY FAITH’?

Our faith can be a source of tremendous strength in times of trial. However, when the disappointments of life cascade over us, it can test our faith – our ability to trust in Jesus. Over the span of our lives, we all have low times and high times. How can we learn to ‘level out’ our

I believe... a study of questions of faith

lives and make better daily choices to build our faith and prove the trustworthiness of God as we seek to do His will?

INQUIRY QUESTIONS:

- How should my faith direct my actions?
- What about when I let my faith slip?
- How can I strengthen my faith?
- How can I demonstrate my faith at home? At work?

Scripture	Notes
2 Corinthians 5:7 *	
Romans 1:17 *	
Galatians 2:20	
Hebrews 10:38	
Ephesians 2:8-9	

Scripture	Notes
-----------	-------

I believe... a study of questions of faith

James 2:20-24	
Mark 11:24	
Additional References/Notes: 	
Additional Questions Raised/Study Required: 	

ADDITIONAL NOTES

FAITH STATEMENT - I believe...	Date:

ACTION STATEMENT - Because I believe this, I will...

ADDITIONAL NOTES

ADDITIONAL USEFUL REFERENCES

Below are listed several useful references to support your faith building journey.

Little, P. E. (2003). *Know What You Believe* (fifth ed.). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Little, P. E. (2003). *Know Why You Believe* (fourth ed.). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Pickering, F. A. (1985). *Sharpening the Sword – Beginners Manual* (fourth ed.).

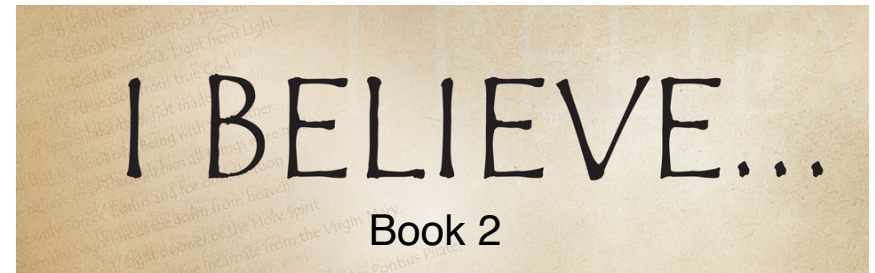
Simmons, R. (2000). *Basic Training - A Manual for Teens – Thirteen Basic Bible Teachings that You Need to Know*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate.

Open Bible Topical Bible - <http://www.openbible.info/topics/>

Here is one useful free website <http://www.kitzkikz.com/flashcards/> which allows the simple creation of a flashcard version of our memory verse. (avoid 'cutting and pasting' to support practice/memorization)

"If you hold to my teaching, you are truly my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." - John 8:31-32 (NIV)

2019 © - all rights reserved. Instructors Guide available upon request
Call 412-526-9571 for duplication permission



a study of questions of faith

*This faith building
workbook belongs to:*

*Created for the
Holiday Park church of Christ
Adult Bible Study
Winter 2019-20
Instructor – Dr. James Ice*