



Sermon Discussion Guide

To Believe

John 20:24-31

Ray Cortese, April 20 & 21, 2019

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- 📖 Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Do you have any special Easter traditions?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

TO BELIEVE: THE RATIONALE

- 3 Why do you think modern men and women doubt the Resurrection? What evidence is there to believe the Resurrection really happened? Why did Ray say, "It takes a greater leap of faith to disbelieve the Resurrection than to believe?"

- 4 Why is the Resurrection the ultimate proof of Jesus' deity?

TO BELIEVE: THE SCARS

- 5 Which was predominant in your conversion story: assenting to the facts of Christianity or experiencing the love of God?
- 6 Discuss the following quote by C.S. Lewis. How does his experience compare to your own?
“You must picture me alone in that room at Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”
- 7 What was the point of the illustration of the woman who died from cancer after giving birth to her daughter?

TO BELIEVE: THE FUTURE

- 8 How is the Christian's trajectory of life different from the secular person?
- 9 What reunions are you looking forward to having in heaven?
- 10 What did you take away from the video of the Steel family?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?