

the ESSENTIALS

why truth matters

OPENING UP

When did you begin to make your faith your own and work out what you personally believed? Share one of the most pivotal moments in your journey of faith with your group.

TEXT**I Believe...in God | Hebrews 11:1,6**

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

2 Timothy 3:16 | All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Deuteronomy 6:4 | “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Matthew 28:19 | Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: Believing in God is essential to possessing truth.

Key Question: Why is it essential to believe in God?

1. Belief in God is how we draw near to Him. (Heb 11:1,6)
2. Belief in God is how we understand Him. (2 Tim 3:16; Deut 6:4; Matt 28:19)
3. Belief in God is how we enjoy Him. (Heb 11:6)

DISCUSSION



- This new series, *The Essentials*, asks two questions: “What is truth?” and “Why does truth matter?” Take time as a group to discuss your answers to these two questions.
- Are you familiar with the Apostles’ Creed? What is your perspective of it? Do you view it in a positive or negative light? Why?
- The opening line of the Apostles’ Creed is “I believe in God...” Many people profess to believe in God but fail to live as if He exists. How does true belief in God draw us near to God? And how should belief in God change the way we live?
- The second thing belief in God causes us to do, is seek a deeper understanding of who God is. We do this by reading God’s word, the Bible, in faith. What relationship do faith and the Bible have with one another? How have you sought to understand God more and what impact has it had on your faith walk?
- Belief in God gives us hope and leads us to enjoyment and blessings in God. Have you experienced this in your own life? If so, share an example with your group. If not, what might change in your perspective, thought life, or actions if you believed that God truly has good things in store for you?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Belief is how we draw near to God. It causes us to seek a further understanding of God through His word, and that deeper understanding leads us to hope and joy in Him.

Do you believe in God? If so, does your life reflect this belief? Can others see a difference in the way you live? Do you find enjoyment and fulfillment in the Lord?

Other people usually know what we love and enjoy because we tend to talk about those things, such as a new favorite restaurant or band. Do those around you know that you love the Lord? This week, how can you share more of what you enjoy about God in the course of natural conversation?

CLOSING PRAYER



God, I believe in You. You are the reason I live. Forgive me for not always living as if you exist. Thank you for being a God that is so personal and knowable. Help me draw near to You this week and to seek the truth about who You are. Help me to put my faith, my hope, and my contentment in You and in the truth of Your word. May others see You when they see me. Increase my faith, Lord. Amen!