



## I BELIEVE IN GOD BUT: I trust in science not the supernatural

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 17, 2022

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Was there ever a time in your life when you were uncertain of the existence of God? What has influenced your belief in God? That is: Was there an argument for His existence, or other experience that helped you? What was it?

**Scripture:** [1 Corinthians 15:13-14](#); [Romans 1:18-23](#)

- What most stood out to you or helped you from this week's sermon?
- Does the resurrection of Jesus have to be literal for there to be meaning in the Christian faith? Why?
- Pastor Derek said, "Faith and science are friends and not enemies." What is your reaction to that statement?
- How are faith and science friends?
- According to Romans 1:18-23 what does the observation of the world reveal? What are some examples of this?
- If the reality of God can be known by the observation of the world, why don't all people "honor Him as God"?
- What does it mean to "suppress the truth"? Why do you think we might want to suppress the truth?
- What did Pastor Derek mean by the statement, "Jesus answers the questions science can't reach"? What are the questions that science can't answer? What is life like if you don't have the answers to these questions?
- Would one or two people like to share how they came to faith in Jesus? How has Jesus brought meaning and purpose to your life?

**Prayer:** Like the father in Mark 9:24, pray - "*I believe; help my unbelief!*". Pray for one another and for friends and family who do not know that Jesus is *the way and the truth and the life* (John 14:6).

**Next Steps:** Have a discussion with a friend, or family (perhaps on a walk, over coffee, or during a meal) on the topic "Why I believe in God/Why I believe in Jesus."

[Find the reading plans for this series on YouVersion! Just search "whoisgrace."]

[\[Grace Church Statement of Faith\]](#)



## I BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT: I'm Not So Sure About the Bible

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 24, 2022

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Describe a person in your life that you trust. What does your relationship look like? How did you learn that you could trust him/her?

**Scripture:** [2 Timothy 3:14-17](#); [Proverbs 2:1-8](#); [Psalm 119:9-16](#)

- How do these passages encourage us to approach God's Word? What does God promise to those who follow this instruction? How might learning to trust the Scriptures be similar to or different from trusting a friend or loved one?
- Ask your group if they ever have trouble trusting the Scriptures. How or why? Walk through one or more of the following exercises and discuss how these doubts might be overcome.

**You Can Trust the Bible Historically:** [Luke 1:1-4](#); [2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

- What can we learn from these passages about the historic reliability of the Scriptures? What is Peter's perspective on the validity of the Old Testament scripture (the prophets)? How do the things that he has witnessed relate to that scripture? How can trusting the Bible historically impact your reading and understanding of Scripture?

**Differences are not the same as contradictions:** [Luke 24:1-45](#); [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

- How do these two accounts of the Resurrection differ? What can we tell about Luke and Matthew's individual points of view by comparing the differences? Do they contradict each other? Do the differences change the overall meaning or message of the event? How might those differences be helpful to our overall understanding?

**Misunderstanding or misinterpreting a passage can lead to confusion or doubt:** [Luke 24:17-27](#)

- What had the disciples hoped that Jesus would do? Why did Jesus' death confuse them? Why did Jesus need to take them all the way back to Moses and the prophets to combat their doubts? Have you ever been tempted to doubt God when something didn't go the way you expected?

**Prayer:** Father God, we are so thankful for the opportunity to read your Word and learn about your presence and purpose throughout history. We sometimes find it hard to believe \_\_\_\_\_. Help us to dig deeper into all that you want to teach us.

**Next Steps:** Commit to spending time reading the Bible every day this week. Say a brief prayer before beginning, asking God for wisdom and understanding.

[Find the reading plans for this series on YouVersion! Just search "whoisgrace."]

[\[Grace Church Statement of Faith\]](#)



## I BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT: Christians Are So Intolerant

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 1, 2022

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Share about a time when the Holy Spirit showed you some sin in your life either directly or by using another person to speak truth to you. This conviction may have been hard but how did it encourage you in your Christian growth?

**Scripture:** [Jude 1:17-23](#); [James 5:19-20](#)

- Jude 1:17-19 warns us there will be people both inside and outside the church who make fun of our beliefs and cause division. How have you experienced this type of ridicule or been labeled 'intolerant' because of your stand for the truth of the Bible?
- Share some ways that Jude 1:20-21 tells us we can prepare ourselves for these assaults against the truth. How do you personally build yourself up in faith and prayer? How can you as a group encourage one another to stay in the love of God?
- Jude 1:21-23 gives examples of ways we can deal with those who don't believe or live in the truth. How can we show mercy to those who are caught in doubt and sin without falling into that doubt and sin ourselves?
- James 5:19-20 highlights why it's important for us to look out for one another and have hard conversations with brothers and sisters in Christ and fellow Life Group members who could stray from the truth. How can your group practice this command in a loving way?

**Prayer:** Think of someone you know who may be hostile to the truth of the gospel. Take some time to pray silently for that person and ask God to give you a chance to share truth with him or her.

**Next Steps:** As a group share some ways you have been intolerant of the actions or beliefs of others and commit to hold one another accountable to share both love and truth in your interactions throughout this week.

[Find the reading plans for this series on YouVersion! Just search "whoisgrace."]

[\[Grace Church Statement of Faith\]](#)



## I BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT: I Just Want to Have Fun

Pastor Sarah Burt

May 8, 2022

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Share with the group something fun that you experienced this week. What does “fun” mean to you?

**Scripture:** [1 John 2:15-17](#); [John 15:8-11](#)

- What is your idea of FUN? Where do you find FUN? Who do you have FUN with? Do you believe that being a Christian is FUN? Why or why not?
- The apostle John recorded Jesus’ teaching in his gospel. Reflect on John 15:8-11. What is the fruit that we produce by abiding in Jesus? How does our obedience and commitment to Jesus lead to our own joy?
- The same John wrote the epistle 1 John. Reflect on 2:15-17. What is the caution for Christ-followers?
- Spend some time thinking through the “*desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life*” that tempt you into believing the world is where fun, pleasure, and joy are found.
- How do the temporary pleasures of this world compare to an eternal relationship with Jesus?
- Talk through what it looks like, sounds like, feels like to seek fun and pleasure and joy in Christ rather than in anything the world has to offer.

**Prayer:** Let this ancient prayer of the church lead your group into a time of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit- “*From all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, Good Lord deliver us.*” (The Book of Common Prayer)

**Next Steps:** Plan a time of fellowship with your group to have some fun in Christ!

[Find the reading plans for this series on YouVersion! Just search “whoisgrace.”]

[\[Grace Church Statement of Faith\]](#)



## I Believe In God, but I'm Not a Fan of the Church

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 15, 2022

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Over the last few weeks, we've been exploring common doubts that Christians often face. In the midst of this study, how have you been experiencing God in new ways? Have you had any good conversations with friends or family?

**Scripture:** [Psalm 127:1](#), [Acts 4:32-35](#)

- Why is it important for us as believers to gather as a church body?
- What might happen in our own faith journeys if we step away from the church but still claim to be followers of Jesus?
- What does the passage in Acts teach us about the vision for the church?
- How can we support each other (or those around us) through hurt, pain, or disillusionment because of the church?

**When we look beyond imperfect Christians, we behold the perfect Christ.**

- As you head into prayer time, share names and attributes of Jesus with one another. Use as many scriptures as you can recall!

**Prayer:** Use this prayer time to focus on Jesus. Use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) to guide your prayer time.

**Next Steps:** Acknowledge where you have allowed baggage from Christianity to cloud your view of Christ. Share this with a trusted Christian friend (perhaps someone in this group!) and ask them to pray with you, asking Jesus to heal you of any cynicism, resentment, bitterness and to replace that with forgiveness and love.

[\[Grace Church Statement of Faith\]](#)