



## Believe

### Robert Morris

**Focus** True faith is active. The disciples struggled with doubt, and Jesus needed to teach them how to have faith and believe. From their examples, we learn how important it is to believe Jesus is God, believe He loves us, and believe we love Him even when we make a mistake.

**Fun** Do you like to cook? If so, what is your favorite recipe? If you don't cook, what meal do you enjoy eating the most?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Mark 16:9–29; James 2:21–23

#### 1. **Believe Jesus is God.**

Jesus stayed on earth forty days after the Resurrection so He could strengthen His disciples' faith. Still, it took the disciples time to believe Jesus had risen. After Jesus cast the demon out of the boy in Mark 9, He told the father and the disciples that the key was to have faith and believe. If you want to grow your faith, you need to put action to your faith. You don't get faith by sitting around; you get faith by pressing into God.

#### 2. **Believe Jesus loves you.**

Many people have a hard time believing God loves them because they feel unlovable. The truth is that God loves every person because God *is* love. John knew Jesus loved him, and he was the only disciple that immediately believed Jesus rose from the dead *before* he saw Him. John's Gospel is the only one that mentions Jesus' new commandment for us to love one another (John 13:34).

#### 3. **Believe you love Jesus.**

In John 21, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Jesus asked several times not because He didn't know Peter loved Him but because He wanted

Peter to believe it himself. Even though we have all denied Jesus in one way or another (like Peter), Jesus wants us to make the declaration that we love Him. Then enemy tries to discourage us when we mess up, but we need to take those moments to declare our love for Jesus.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Brainstorm ways your group can be a blessing to single parents at Gateway. It can be as simple as giving online to Gateway's Single Parent Families Ministry or as creative as doing home improvement projects or sending a single parent on a vacation.

### Discuss

1. Read James 2:21–23. How does faith express itself through actions?
2. The father of the boy in Mark 9 told Jesus he believed but asked Jesus to help his unbelief. Why is this a good thing to ask?
3. What are some ways you can put your faith in action?
4. What did Pastor Robert mean when he said, "The power of God is not turned on until there is activity in your life"? What are practical ways this applies to us?
5. Why do people have a hard time believing Jesus loves them?
6. When we mess up, why is it important for us to declare we still love Jesus?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

### Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Believe Jesus is God.
- Believe Jesus loves you.
- Believe you love Jesus, even when you mess up.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we believe Jesus is God and that You sent Him to pay the price for our sins. Help our unbelief and help us put our faith in action. We believe You love us, and we declare how much we love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** As the weather gets nicer, you may want to be creative and move your group outside. Sometimes changing up your meeting location is a good way to freshen things up.