



Belief: What we believe 2-Mar: Jesus

Series Summary: Many view doctrine as something that is only important for pastors. Nothing could be further from the truth. What we believe matters? This is why Paul told young Timothy to watch his doctrine closely (1 Tim 4:16)

Big Idea/Question: What makes someone a Christian is what they believe about Jesus.

GET THEM TALKING

What did Pastor Russell say that stuck out to you?

What are you still uncertain about?

GROUP DISCUSSION (an empathizing savior)

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Why does it matter so much that Jesus can empathize with what we go through?

What is the difference between sympathy and empathy? Why is it so much better than Jesus can empathize and not just sympathize?

Leader Note: Sympathy means that someone feels sorry for you. Empathy means they know what you are going through because they have gone through the same thing. Jesus can empathize because he has walked in our shoes (fully man).

What difficult experiences did Jesus go through just like we do today?

Leader Note: Here are some that come to mind

- Jesus mourned the loss of loved ones (John 11:32-36)
- Jesus was betrayed by those close to him (Matthew 27:3-5)
- Jesus was tempted (Hebrews 4:15) but did not sin.
- Jesus was angry at times (Matthew 21:12)

Vs 16- How should the fact that Jesus knows what we are going through change the way we pray and approach Jesus?

GROUP DISCUSSION

(a perfect example)

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." **4** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" **7** Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." **10** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" **11** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

How did Jesus stand up to the temptation to sin in this passage?

Leader Note: Three times Jesus used scripture to combat temptation. This is a perfect example for us.

How can we do likewise?

Leader Note: If we have a specific area of our lives where we face temptation (such as lust, envy, etc...) we should memorize scripture that speaks on those issues so we can call them to mind in our moment of temptation.