



WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

MESSAGE NOTES:

1. If you ever had the chance to read the personal journal of someone whose life has influenced yours, who would you choose? Why would their stories and ideas be meaningful to you?
2. When someone says “I just don’t believe it anymore,” what response might you get if you asked, “What is the ‘it’ you don’t believe?”
3. In this day of instant media, it is hard to imagine how it would have felt to gather around a couple pages of the story of Jesus. How would you have felt if you were there?
4. What differences do you observe in the way Peter (through Mark’s writing) and Matthew describe Jesus’ beginning? Read Mark 1:1 & Matthew 1:1, 17. The way they introduce Jesus? Read Mark 1:2-8 & Matthew 3:1-12.
5. Share any SOAP Journal entries you have from John 20.
6. Why did John write his account of Jesus’ life (See John 20:30-31)? Track this theme through the entire book: 1:12, 3:15,16, 3:36, 5:24, 6:35, 8:24, 11:25, 16:19. How does this emphasis strike you?
7. If John’s account of the life of Jesus was all you had, would it change the way you view the Bible? God? Faith?
8. How does it feel to know John wrote a book for you?
9. How does it affect you to know some people gave their lives to save those early writings? How will this change the way you see the Bible?

Bottom Line: Christianity is not the result of something that was written; it’s the result of something that happened—the resurrection of Jesus.

SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: Genesis 1

S - Scripture - Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O - Observation - Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A - Application - Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P - Prayer - Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.