



## Simple (Week 2: Believe)

Jesus arrived on the stage of world events and announced that God's intent was to connect with, not confuse, mankind. To those who were considered most distant from God, Jesus offered a message and invitation that was profoundly... simple. People who accepted his offer found themselves captivated by an extraordinary faith leading them to adopt a lifestyle that turned the world upside down.

## Discussion Questions

1. Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
2. **Read Romans 3:21-22.** – The Jews believed a right standing with God was found through following the law. But the law was put into place to point toward the need for a savior. It is tempting to think our right standing with God is based on following rules. Have you tried to earn God's approval in the past? Are you still trying to earn it? Explain.
3. **Read Romans 3:23.** – If the standard is God's glory, his goodness and perfection, is it no wonder that we've all fallen short? How does it make you feel to know that no one can obtain right standing with God on his or her own?
4. **Read Romans 3:23-24.** – Does it make sense that the most valuable thing of all, a right standing before God, is available for free to all who believe, with no strings attached? Why would people turn down this real free gift?
5. **Read Romans 3:25-26.** – God is just. Sin had to be taken care of and yet God knew we were powerless to do anything about it. So through the sacrifice of Jesus, all sin was taken care of, both the sins committed in the past and the sins of the future. How does this impact your understanding of the seriousness of sin and the character of God?
6. Many of Jesus original followers came to a place where they moved from “following and belonging” to believing. - Belief not just in his teachings, or philosophy, but belief in who he claimed to be...the son of God. - For some, it took the resurrection for them to truly believe. For others, it happened prior to that event while following. Do you believe Jesus is the son of God? If you do, what led to this decision? If you do not, what aspect of belief are you wrestling with?
7. Some argue that Christianity is narrow and exclusive. But a right standing before God is available to all who believe. What does this mean for our neighbors, friends, and family?