



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

PART 1

1. In the message, Andy tells us our belief is often based on evidence and/or the confidence we have in the person delivering the information. What is something you once believed without any evidence? Why did you believe it?
2. How would you describe the difference between faith and belief?
3. Have you ever been in a situation where someone responded to your faith questions with an answer like, "Well, you just have to believe" or "You need to have more faith"? If so, how did it make you feel?
4. Frank Turek says, "The reason so many people are easily talked out of Christianity is because they were never talked into it in the first place." How have you seen this play out around you?
5. Have you ever thought about the difference between a miracle and a sign? In what ways do you think they are different?

PART 2

1. What would your response have been if you were at the wedding and experienced this sign of turning water into wine firsthand?
2. In Part 1, you discussed the difference between a miracle and a sign. After hearing Andy's explanation, did your thinking change in any way? If so, how?
3. Andy mentions that, for most of us, our faith in Jesus doesn't come by seeing, but rather by hearing the testimony of eyewitnesses. Based on your own faith journey, would you say this is true for you? Explain.

PART 3

1. Do you know someone who has demonstrated faith, sacrifice, and commitment despite unanswered prayers? How has their faith in Jesus impacted you?
2. What does "walking by faith" mean to you?
3. Sadducees were people who typically didn't pray because they believed it wouldn't make a difference. Has there ever been a time in your life when you believed that?
4. Was there ever a time when your circumstances overwhelmed all of your typical boundaries and behaviors? If you are comfortable, share with the group.
5. Has there ever been a time when you had to "walk by faith" because an outcome was uncertain? If you are comfortable, share with the group.

PART 4

1. What are some of the flawed views you carried around with you when you were younger? How have those views changed over time?
2. Where have you seen tradition and law given equal value in our culture or even within religious groups?
3. The religious leaders of the day had taken to defending a theological system over the people it was designed to benefit. Are there areas in your own life where you are tempted to do this?
4. In the video, Andy says, "If our version of Christianity gets in the way of loving people God loves, then we are at odds with God." Where have you seen this demonstrated in the past? How do we keep this from happening?

PART 5

1. Have you been in a relationship where you or the other person had an agenda? How did it work out?

2. Have you or someone you know ever given up on faith or church because you weren't getting anything out of it? What precipitated the decision?
3. Andy suggested that if every Jesus follower, for two weeks, stopped asking God for things, it would radically change the world. In what ways do think this would make an impact?
4. In the story, the crowd missed the opportunity to just be with the Savior of the world. They were in it for the food and the magic show—consumers instead of followers. What would it look like in your life to be more of a Jesus follower than a consumer?

PART 6

1. Can you give an example of when you saw God demonstrate his power in the midst of someone's suffering?
2. In the history of the church and Christianity, we have rejected people groups and individuals because we didn't know where they could fit into our version of faith. Can you share some examples?
3. Andy described two different versions of a God box. One box includes those who want to understand everything about God before believing anything yet don't hold to this standard in other areas of their lives (e.g., love, energy, or consciousness). Another box includes those who practice willful blindness or refuse to see what can be seen (e.g., Christians who refuse to acknowledge modern science or to engage with others who are not like them). Have you ever found yourself operating out of either of these boxes?
4. Do you know someone who has walked away from the church or their faith because of someone else's God box? If you're comfortable, share with the group.

PART 7

1. Have you ever wondered why God allows bad things to happen to good people? Does Andy's explanation bring clarity for you on this topic? Talk about it with the group.
2. Martha's doubts weren't about whether or not Jesus could save Lazarus, but whether or not he would. Which do you struggle with most: believing that Jesus can or believing that he will? Why?

3. Andy tells us that God didn't eliminate the evils of the world; instead, he placed them on the shoulders of his Son. How can this help us reconcile a good God in a broken world?
4. Think about a time in your life when you had hoped God would intervene and he didn't. Or maybe God did intervene, but it wasn't when or how you wanted him to. How can Lazarus' story shed light on your own situation?

PART 8

1. As we studied John's account of these signs that all point back to Jesus, what has been the most impactful for you?
2. How has your belief been challenged or changed over the past few weeks?
3. Through each of these stories, we find a common theme where seeing leads to believing and believing leads to trusting. Is this similar to your own faith journey? If so, how?