



Looking for a Sign

Week of July 3, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 12:38-45

How many of us spend our time looking for a sign from God? A sign that we are on the right track, or a sign that he is really who he says he is. When our deep, dark thoughts take over, we want proof that God is there. Even though he has already given us many signs, we want God to give us one more sign to prove everything is as he said. But the reality is, we already have a sign. We have a record of God's interactions with us in the Bible, we have Jesus' words and miracles recorded for us. And if these aren't enough, we have the ultimate sign of God's plan and the evidence of his love when we see the empty tomb. There is no bigger sign of God's love for you, of his plan for you, or of his presence in your life than in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Pray

Jesus, the empty tomb is the only sign I need to prove to me that you died for my sins, and that now you live at the right hand of God. Forgive me for doubting and for asking for more evidence of your love for me. Help me remember that the only evidence I need is the cross and the empty tomb.

Getting Started

- What was your favorite Bible story growing up?
- Have you ever spent your time looking for a sign from God? What happened?

Listening Deeply

1. Read the focus verse aloud in your group. Why do you think the Pharisees were asking for a sign from Jesus?
2. Have there been times in your life where Jesus' presence was evident in your life, but you still asked for a sign from him?
3. Jesus told the Pharisees that the only sign would be that of the prophet Jonah. Look at the book of Jonah, or tell what you know about the story of Jonah. What are some of the correlations of the story of Jonah and that of Jesus?
4. Has there been a time in your life when you had deep, dark, doubts, or when your life just wasn't turning out the way you wanted it to? What did you do?
5. There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that John Wilkes Booth killed President Lincoln. What is some of that evidence (either from the Bible or from your personal study)?
6. Why is Jesus' resurrection the only sign we need from God?
7. Pastor John shared his story of how the resurrection is the only sign he needed to continue following Jesus. What is the importance of sharing your Jesus story? Can you share your story with the group?

Living Wide in Jesus

When you ask for a sign, you are demanding that God prove himself to you on an individual level. He has already given you all the evidence you need in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? Do you trust him with your life? This week, trust him. Come to him accepting or renewing your faith because of his sign of how much he loves you.