

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

*SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE*

JOHN 20:11-31

JULY 14, 2024

## SERMON OUTLINE:

1. Genuine faith is a gift
2. Genuine faith is unconditional
3. Genuine faith is reasonable

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What have you enjoyed most about this series through the Gospels? What has been the most challenging or convicting thing you've learned through this series?
2. Why should our understanding of the gospel include both an element of Christ's kingdom and Christ's cross? What might we lose if we forsake one over the other? How does seeing the gospel through this dual lens expand your previous understanding of the gospel?
3. Reading through John 20:11-31, how do you see evidence of Jesus' patience, grace, and mercy as he interacts with various people following his resurrection? What do these interactions reveal about Jesus and how we relate to him today?
4. If genuine faith is a gift, what role do we play in our belief or, for that matter, in the belief of others? How do both faith and reason interact with one another? Do they oppose or complement one another?
5. Like Thomas, we tend to add conditions to our faith. What conditions have you added to your faith in Christ? Asked another way, what are things that, when taken away or not given, cause you to question or doubt God's love and faithfulness to you?
6. *SMALL GROUP EXERCISE:* Read the account of Jesus healing a demon-possessed boy in Mark 9:17-25. After answering question #5 together, pray as a group, confessing your conditions to God. Ask the Lord to instill faith in you, using the father's words in vs. 24 as a framework for your prayer.