

RECLAIMING *Irresistible*

INTRODUCTION

Long before there were Christian Scriptures, there were Christians—men and women whose faith began with an empty tomb. These eyewitnesses to the resurrection experienced an event so extraordinary that it changed their lives, and what they gave their lives to, forever. But now a generation is walking away from their faith as their confidence in the Bible is dismantled. They assume that as the Bible goes, so goes Christianity. Maybe it's time we learned from the faith of those early eyewitnesses—faith that's undeniable and ultimately, irresistible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have the following church experiences impacted your faith or the faith of someone you care about?

- An Appealing Setting
- Engaging Communication
- Helpful Content

2. Do you know someone who has walked away from their faith? Do their doubts center around Jesus, the Bible, or something else? Did something they heard or experienced in church play a role in their loss of faith?

3. Most modern Christians share the false assumption that the Bible is the foundation of our faith.

Read Ephesians 2:19-20.

If someone were to ask you why you believe in Jesus, what would you say? Is the foundation of your faith “it is written” or “something happened”? What's important about the difference between the two?

4. The four Gospels are named after the men who wrote them—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. What do you know about each of these men and how they were connected to Jesus? How does focusing on their personal connection with Jesus differ from saying “because the Bible says so”?

5. The Bible didn't create Christianity. Just as your birth certificate didn't birth you. Nobody asks to see the birth certificate. They ask to see the baby. What might change if you approached your faith from the perspective that people need to see Jesus, not the Bible?

6. Great churches are characterized by three things:

- People who love Jesus
- People who love like Jesus
- People who have a plan for introducing the next generation to the love of Jesus

When you consider these three statements, what part do you hope to play in the faith of the those who are seeking, starting, and returning to faith? What steps can you take to move in that direction?

MOVING FORWARD

We believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, but not because the Bible tells us so. It's better than that! The time has come for a return to the original, revolutionary, event-centered message. This week read Matthew 28:18-20 and ask God to give you courage as you consider the part you can play in the lives of those who may have left their faith behind unnecessarily.