



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

02/21/2016

Matthew 28 suggests that increasing confidence in Jesus comes by practicing one's faith. The experience of Jesus' followers was to be relived and strengthened through the telling of that story.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 28. Derek highlighted at the end of the chapter that among those who saw Jesus, some continued in their doubt. What command does Jesus give to even those who doubted? Is it possible to do this while experiencing doubt?
2. People regularly talk about topics of which they do not have a full understanding. Can a fruitful conversation about Jesus or faith occur without being an "expert"? What types of things often hurt or help a conversation about faith most?
3. How does Jesus' promise at the end of this chapter affect his command to those present? Based on John 14:15-26 and Luke 24:49 how does he fulfill this promise?
4. Acts 1:1-5 marks the inception of what would be called the Christian movement. Were the convincing proofs and appearances sufficient to make the faith of Jesus' follower's effective? What was essential to this faith movement? (Acts 2:32-33; cf. Ephesian 1:13-14)

5. Faith in the event of Jesus' death and resurrection is important, but the event pointed to something even greater. Based on Romans 5:1-11 and 6:5-11, what does Jesus' death and resurrection accomplish?

6. How does faith in what Jesus accomplished affect the understanding of your relationship with God? (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

7. What does reconciliation look like between two individuals? Do you believe that reconciliation with God was necessary?

8. What role do you have in reconciliation with God and how does this affect your daily living?

9. If reconciliation between God and man is necessary and true, how important is this message? (Consider the command in Matthew 28)

10. How has this message of reconciliation affected your life? If you're still considering the validity of this message, how have the past three messages on doubt affected your understanding of faith and spirituality?

MOVING FORWARD

Hebrews 12:2 indicates that faith is not only *in* Jesus but is strengthened and perfected *by* Jesus. You are not alone in your journey of understanding and faith. Throughout the gospels, Jesus goes above and beyond to offer reason for faith and trust—he's pulling for your success. This week begin strengthening your faith by practicing it. Have a conversation, read the Bible and focus on prayer.