

I. Because we Believe Study Guide 3

A. Thoughts about faith

1. What is the reason we believe? Is it for our benefit or the benefit of God?
2. Are we to have more faith in desperate times or should we always believe God is working beyond our current crisis?

B. Luke 4:16–21 (ESV)

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

1. Is it easier for you to believe when you are around familiar settings where you grew up or is it easier when you are removed from where you grew up?
2. Why is it easier for some to share the good news of Jesus when they are on a mission than it is at home?
3. Have you ever felt like scripture was being fulfilled as you were reading it?
4. What is the last time scripture was fulfilled in your lifetime?
5. Tell about a time when a prayer was answered in a powerful way.

C. Luke 4:22–24 (ESV)

²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.

1. An expert is someone over 50 miles from home. Why does being unfamiliar make people believe what we are saying?
2. Why did the people begin to question if Jesus could do any miracles there?

D. Luke 4:25–30 (ESV)

²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

1. Read the Story of Elijah and the widow in 1 Kings 17.
2. Why was there a famine?
3. Is it easier to have faith in times of disaster or when times are good?

A. 1 Kings 17:15–16

¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

1. When is a time when have chosen to obey God rather than do what was good for yourself?
2. Do you believe God blesses more in difficult times or in times of plenty?
3. List some of the blessings of God you enjoy right now.