

Activity – Trivia Challenge

Q - Why do you believe what you believe?

Q - Is Christianity reasonable?

1 Peter 3:15-16

Knowing *what* vs. knowing *why*

Q - Why is important to know *why* we believe?

- So many belief systems out there...
- Educated towards certain beliefs

Q – What questions have you heard arguing against Christianity?

Q – What might happen if we *don't* know why we believe?

- Personal relationship with God is shallow – living out someone else's faith
- Get shaken when things get hard
- Can't help others to know the truth

John 12:42-43

Q – What held these men back from believing in Jesus?

Q – What are some other things that could us people back from believing?

- “God is against me” – unanswered prayers, challenges, etc.
- Difficult past
- Hypocrisy
- Not wanting to change

Q - Does Jesus change the standard?

POINT: Even though the reasons why we believe are important, and being prepared to give an answer is a command, we also need to *follow* what Jesus is calling us to. “Faith without deeds is dead.”

Dealing with Doubt

Q – Is it a bad thing to doubt God?

- Bad – if we allow our doubt to pull us away from God (Peter on the water)
- Good – if it leads to stronger convictions
- Each of us need to ask questions

Q – How can we overcome doubt? How can we help others overcome doubt?

- Look to the scriptures for answers

- Get help – GO AFTER IT

Q – What's your usual response to the doubts of others?

Q – How should we treat someone dealing with doubt in believing in God?

- If it's us, don't freak out or feel pressured!
- Without criticism or anger – treat them with respect and fairness
- See it as a part of their own journey to find God