

STUDY GUIDE

THIRTY SESSIONS

ADULT CURRICULUM

BELIEVE

LIVING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE
TO BECOME LIKE JESUS



RANDY FRAZEE

WITH RANDY LARSON

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ZONDERVAN

Believe Study Guide

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Requests for information should be addressed to:

Zondervan, 3900 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

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God

Personal Study

Every session in *Believe* contains a personal study to help you make meaningful connections between your life and what you're learning each week. Take some time before your group meeting each week to read the assigned chapter from *Believe* and complete the weekly personal study. In total, the personal study should take about one hour to complete. Some people like to spread it out, devoting about ten to fifteen minutes a day. Others choose one larger block of time during the week to work through the entire personal study in one sitting. There's no right or wrong way to do this! Just choose a plan that best fits your needs and schedule from week to week.

This week before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 1: God*. Then spend some time allowing the Scripture to take root in your heart and reflecting on what you personally believe about who God is.

READ

Read Believe, Chapter 1: God and answer the following questions.

1. In what ways do you see the invisible qualities of God revealed in nature?

2. What are some of the main points of God's requirements for his people? Why do you think he emphasized these things?

3. Why did God have to prove over and over that he is the one true God?

4. In what ways have you experienced God as Father? As Jesus the Son? As the Holy Spirit?

5. What is meant by the phrase Paul quoted: “For in him we live and move and have our being”? Why do you think this needed to be said to this group of Athenians?

EVALUATE

Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 1: God, use a scale of 1–6 to rate how strongly you believe the statements below (1 = no belief at all, 6 = complete confidence).

_____ I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God.

_____ I believe the God of the Bible is one in essence but distinct in person — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

_____ I believe Jesus is God in the flesh — who died and rose bodily from the dead.

_____ I believe the Holy Spirit is God and dwells in Christians to empower them to live the Christian life.

TAKE ACTION

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week's Key Verse to memory.

KEY VERSE: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."
(2 Corinthians 13:14)



Recite this week's Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, "Does my life reflect this statement?"

KEY IDEA: I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Answer the following questions to help you apply this week's Key Idea to your own life.

1. What behaviors help you recognize someone who believes the God of the Bible is the one true God?

2. What, if anything, hinders you from putting your faith solely in the God of the Bible?

3. What is something you can do this week to demonstrate your belief in the one true God?

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 1 of *Believe*. If this is your first time together as a group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other before watching the video. Then, feel free to get started!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 1, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- A. W. Tozer wrote, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Why? Because this mind-set—or absence of it—will drive all we _____ and all we _____.
- Key Question: Who is _____?
- "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are _____." (Romans 1:20)
- Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the one _____—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God is three persons who _____ a being.
- "Then God said, _____ make mankind in our image, in our likeness ... So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26–27)
- One of the biggest failures for humanity, beginning with the fall of Adam and Eve, is when we try to take over the role of _____ in our lives.
- (Key Application) Because God is God ... I am _____ ... He is in _____ and in control ... I want to know and follow his _____ for my life.
- (Key Application) Because I was created in the image of God and for community ... I recognize others' full _____ and respect boundaries ... I look out for the rights, preferences, and _____ of others ... I _____ and enjoy others.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
(2 Corinthians 13:14)



KEY IDEA: I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God.
- I believe the God of the Bible is one in essence but distinct in person—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- I believe Jesus is God in flesh—who died and rose bodily from the dead.
- I believe the Holy Spirit is God and dwells in Christians to empower them to live the Christian life.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. If you only had two minutes to answer the question, “Who is God?” how would you respond?

2. How does your understanding of God impact your day-to-day decisions?

3. What are the most common reasons people struggle to believe that the God of the Bible is the one true God? What helped you get past these obstacles? Or, what obstacles are you still facing?

Read Luke 3 (see the section “God in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit” in Believe) and choose 1 – 2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. In what ways is the Trinity a challenging concept to comprehend?
2. If God (the Trinity) is a community within himself, and we are made in his image, what does that tell us about ourselves?
3. How does today’s culture help or hinder us from experiencing the community we were created for?
4. What specific actions can this group undertake to create healthy community?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Mike is one of your favorite coworkers. He is funny, hardworking, and passionate about life. As a new Christian, he comes to you seeking help, because he and his wife are struggling. They are constantly butting heads, arguing, and simply not getting along. Mike thinks it is just easier to walk away but really wants to know what you think.

Using the Key Applications from this session, what gentle advice would you give him? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the *Believe* church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your *Believe* journey in one place.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

are, do / God / without excuse / true God / share / Let us / God / not, charge, will /
personhood, comforts, value