



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of March 18, 2024

1. Have you ever seen an Elvis impersonator, a cover band, or a portrayal of a famous movie character at Disney World or theme park? Who or what did you see? Someone once said that “...imitation is the highest form of flattery.” When or where is imitation appropriate? When is it wrong? Is it possible to tell if someone really isn’t a genuine Christian?
2. LifeWay Research recently reported that 75% of Americans say they believe in God, and 63% self-identify as Christians. Many will claim to be a Christian because of family upbringing, church attendance, embracing Christian morality, and/or thinking positively about Jesus. Would you say this authentic faith? Why or why not?
3. What is the “critical content” that every true Christian must believe according to 1 Cor. 15:1-4? What are the essential hallmarks of the gospel that must be present for genuine faith? (see also Rom. 10:9-10)
4. What is the difference between “understanding” something — and “believing” that it is true? Many people affirm that Jesus was a real person in history (like George Washington or Martin Luther King) but is this sufficient for genuine faith? Read John 1:12 and 1 Thess. 2:13 before you answer. Can atheists understand the Bible’s basic content about God, Jesus, salvation, and the church?
5. Jesus’ siblings grew up with Him for many years. They knew Him better than anyone. Did they “believe” in Him as the Son of God prior to His death and resurrection (see John 7:5). How about after the resurrection (see Acts 1:14). Why is “belief” one of the critical markers of genuine faith? Explain your answer.
6. Satan and his demons understood perfectly the reality of who Jesus was. They understood He was the almighty Son of God— and they believed it too (James 2:19). But did they entrust themselves to Jesus, submit to His lordship, or yield themselves to His leadership?
7. What does it mean to “entrust” yourself to Christ by faith? What are you trusting Jesus to do for you? (see also Gal. 2:20; Ephes. 1:7) Is genuine faith just about intellectual information— or does it include heart and life transformation? Explain.
8. Here are the three elements of genuine faith as Pastor Ryan presented them on Sunday. How would you explain these to a non-Christian friend in your own words?
 - a. *Knowledge*: _____ (what knowledge do they need?)
 - b. *Belief*: _____ (what does it mean to believe?)
 - c. *Trust*: _____ (what does it mean to trust or rely on Jesus?)

*Genuine faith isn’t Bible words to confess or religious activities that impress,
it’s a commitment to Jesus you possess.*