



# **B Y S T A N D E R**

**JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH**



# Welcome to Bystander!

We do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus because the Bible says so. We believe because various individuals – some, bystanders as eye witnesses – took the time to record what they had seen first hand. Those writings were passed down to us.

We do believe Jesus is who He said He was because of evidence. Not because of blind faith.

Welcome to BYSTANDER! What an incredible 7 weeks we will have exploring what this eyewitness had to say about what he saw.

You may not be a Christ-Follower. You may not even believe in God. Or, you may have followed Jesus for years and call yourself a Christian. Regardless of your journey, this series will challenge you.

So, we thought why not create an on-ramp for YOU to observe Jesus! Whether you believe or not, simply explore what this Bystander experienced with Jesus. Here are some opportunities we have provided for this series:

- Attend one of the COMMUNITY campuses for the 7 weekly messages, or listen/watch online at [community-christian.us/messages](http://community-christian.us/messages). All of the Message Notes are in this booklet.
- Show up and engage in a Community Group. Go to [community-christian.us/groups/](http://community-christian.us/groups/) to learn more about groups and find one near you. The Group Notes are in this booklet.

- Read through the ancient document in the Bible called “The Book of Mark.” The Reading Plan is in this booklet. Don’t have a Bible? Go to [Youversion.com](http://Youversion.com) to download the Bible app.
- If you’d like access to a digital version of this workbook, you can find it at our website. Feel free to share this with your friends and family.

I would LOVE to hear how your journey is going over these 7 weeks. You can let me know at [www.community-christian.us/stories](http://www.community-christian.us/stories) or email us at [info@community-christian.us](mailto:info@community-christian.us). We are with you on this journey . . . it is the pathway to help all of us *find our way back to God*.



**Kyle Windsor**  
Senior Pastor



Community Christian is one church meeting in multiple locations throughout Silicon Valley. Our mission is ***Helping people find their way back to God*** and we invite you to join us in what God is doing through Community.

**Bystander**  
**Book of John Reading Plan**

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This guide is meant to be used every week day for seven weeks. We will be reading small sections from the Gospel of John and by the end of the seven weeks, we will have read the whole Gospel.

Check the day off to help you keep track!

**Week #1**

- John 1:1-18
- John 1:19 - 51
- John 2
- John 3:1-21
- John 3:22-36

**Week #2**

- John 4:1-42
- John 4:42-54
- John 5
- John 6:1-24
- John 6:25-71

**Week #3**

- John 7
- John 8:1-11
- John 8:12-30
- John 8:31-59
- John 9

**Week #4**

- John 10:1-21
- John 10:22-42
- John 11
- John 12:1-19
- John 12:20-50

**Week #5**

- John 13
- John 14:1-14
- John 14:15-31
- John 15:1-17
- John 15:18-27

**Week #6**

- John 16:1-15
- John 16:16-33
- John 17
- John 18:1-27
- John 18:28-40

**Week #7**

- John 19:1-16
- John 19:17-42
- John 20:1-18
- John 20:19-31
- John 21

## **Bystander Topic Schedule**

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The Message Notes and Community Group questions for each week can be found within that week's section.

*Need to catch up? Visit [www.community-christian.us/messages](http://www.community-christian.us/messages)*

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Week #1</b> September 14-15, 2019	<b>Momma Says</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Week #2</b> September 21-22, 2019	<b>Living As If</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Week#3</b> September 28-29, 2019	<b>Carry On!</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Week #4</b> October 5-6, 2019	<b>Lunch and Learn</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Week #5</b> October 12-13, 2019	<b>Open Eyes</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Week #6</b> October 19-20, 2019	<b>Coexistence</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Week #7</b> October 26-27, 2019	<b>Invitation to Believe</b>	<b>34</b>

## Message Notes

Week of September 14, 2019

Sign #1 - Water to Wine

### MOMMA SAYS

John 2:1-12; 20:30-31; 1:14

**BIG IDEA: CHRISTIAN \_\_\_\_\_ IS A RESPONSE  
TO \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

John 20:30-31

*On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."*

John 2:1-4

*"Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. John 2:5-7*

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, John 2:8-10

"Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink, but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days. John 2:10-12

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

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## **Community Group Discussion**

**September 14-15, 2019**

### ***BIG IDEA: Christian faith is a response to evidence.***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Beginning with first-century followers of Jesus, trusting in Jesus has been a response to evidence, not simply a hope that something is true. The Gospel writer John referred to the miracle of Jesus as signs that gave evidence of who Jesus was. The first sign documented was when Jesus attended a wedding and turned water into wine.

#### **ICEBREAKER**

What is something you once believed without any evidence? Why did you believe it?

#### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 2:1-12, 20:3-31

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How would you describe the difference between faith and belief?
- John describes coming to faith as a process of seeing signs of who Jesus was. Today, we only read about those events. Should the fact that we are not eyewitnesses to the miracles of Jesus, impact the process of coming to faith? Why or why not?
- Read John 2:1-12. How familiar is this story to you? Is there anything that stands out as new information? What are some details about this story that would lead us to believe this actually happened?
- Does looking at this story as a “sign” instead of a “miracle” change anything about your view of God? How might it shape how you view the miracles of Jesus?
- In what area of your life do you need to have faith in Jesus? How does this story encourage you to move forward in faith?

#### **MOVING FORWARD**

“The reason why so many people are talked out of Christianity is because they were never talked into it in the first place.” Frank Turek

-What is one thing you can do to make the most of this 7 week-series and pursue a closer connection to Jesus? How can this group support and encourage you?



## **Message Notes**

**Week of September 21, 2019**

**Sign #2 - Healing of a Nobleman's Son**

### **LIVING AS IF**

1 John 1:1-3; John 20:29-31; 2:23; 4:46-54

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it . . . We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard. 1 John 1:1-3*

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31*

*Many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. John 2:23*

*Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. "Unless you see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will not believe." Sir, come down before my child dies." "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man believed the word Jesus spoke to him and departed for home. John 4:46-50*

# BIG IDEA: FAITH IS ACTING WHEN THERE IS

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*While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed. This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee. John 4:51-54*

*"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29*

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Memory Verse**

*"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29*

## **Community Group Discussion**

**September 21-22, 2019**

**BIG IDEA: Faith is acting when there is no evidence.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In order to demonstrate who he was, Jesus performed a number of miracles, which the apostle John referred to as “signs”. The first was turning water into wine, and the second was in the midst of a heartbreaking circumstance in which a father desperately asked Jesus to heal his dying son.

### **ICEBREAKER**

Share something you believe (or used to believe) based solely on what someone else told you about it.

### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

1 John 1:1-3, John 20:29-31, John 4:46-54

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Tragedy can often cause people (even those who claim to not believe in God) to look up - whether it's questioning or shaking our fists. Why do you think this is?
- Read John 4:46-54. In verse 48, what seems to be Jesus' main motivation for performing the miracle? In verse 53, what type of emotion do you think the official had when he realized his son was being healed at the same time he was talking to Jesus?
- In what ways do our lives mirror the wait the official had to endure until he got word his son was healed? Share an example from your own life where you have been waiting for a miracle.
- The testimony of others is what prompted the official to seek Jesus for help. How might our testimonies cause people to seek Jesus?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Jesus recognized there would be people who would believe in him who were not eyewitnesses to his miracles, and he looked into the future and called us blessed. John 20:29, because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who have not and yet have believed.

-What is one area of your life where you need believe that you are blessed?  
How can this group support and encourage you?



## Message Notes

Week of September 28, 2019

Sign #3 - Healing of a Lame Man

### CARRY ON!

1 John 1: 1-3; John 20:31; 5:1-19

Exodus 20:8; 39- 40

**BIG IDEA: WHEN YOUR VERSION OF \_\_\_\_\_ GETS IN THE \_\_\_\_\_, YOU HAVE THE WRONG \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard. 1 John 1:1-3*

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*

*Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there... and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, “Do you want to get well?” John 5:1-6*

*“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him “Get up. Pick up your mat and walk.” John 5:7-8*

At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."  
John 5:9-10

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Exodus 20:8

"It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" John 5:10-11

So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd.. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. "Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." John 5:12-14

The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." John 5:15-19

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40

## **Community Group Discussion**

**September 27-28, 2019**

***BIG IDEA: When your version of Christianity gets in the way of love, you have the wrong version.***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Just outside of Jerusalem, Jesus performed a miracle that changed a man's life forever. For 38 years, the man was unable to walk. But when Jesus said, "Get up," the man was healed. However, it's what Jesus said next that made this miracle a clear sign of who Jesus really was.

### **ICEBREAKER**

What is one law or cultural expectation you wish was different?

### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 5:1-21

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Can you remember a time when someone went against the rules or the norm for your benefit? Explain.
- Read John 5:1-21. Before healing him, Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?" Why do you think he asked him that?
- Give an example of how your past version of Christianity got in the way of loving people. Is your current version getting in the way? If so, why? What next steps can you take to change this?
- Verses 16-18 lay the groundwork for why the religious leaders were at odds with Jesus. What do their comments tell you about their religious priorities?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

When your version of Christianity gets in the way of love, you have the wrong version. The people beside you must take priority over the potentially flawed religious view you may have.

-What step can you take to make a specific person a priority to love over a flawed religious view you may have? How can this group support and encourage you?



## Message Notes

Week of October 5, 2019

Sign #4 - Feeding the 5000(+)

### LUNCH & LEARN

Philippians 4:7; John 20:31; John 6:2-15, 25-27, 30-31

**BIG IDEA: IT'S \_\_\_\_\_ TO HAVE AN  
\_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP WITH  
SOMEONE FROM WHOM YOU'RE  
ALWAYS TRYING TO \_\_\_\_\_ SOMETHING.**

*"...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding." Philippians 4:7*

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have. John 20:31*

*...and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"  
John 6:2-7*

*Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:8-11*

*When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.* John 6:12-13

*After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force withdrew again to a mountain by himself.* John 6:14-15

*When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" "You are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill." Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." John 6:25-27*

*"What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness." John 6:30-31*

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31*

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

*Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. John 6:27*

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## **Community Group Discussion**

### **October 5-6, 2019**

***BIG IDEA: It's impossible to have an authentic relationship with someone from whom you're always trying to get something.***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Perhaps one of the most talked about signs Jesus performed was feeding 5000+ people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Those that followed Jesus thought he was finally getting to the point of what he could do for them. They were more enamored with the signs than with what the signs were pointing to.

### **ICEBREAKER**

Have you ever returned from a trip and not brought a gift for someone who expected one? Have you ever expected a gift from someone's travels and not received one?

### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 6:1-14, 25-27

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How would you define an authentic relationship?
- Have you ever been in a relationship where you or the other person had an agenda? How did that go?
- Read John 6:1-14. What are some details about this story that would lead us to believe this actually happened?
- In verse 13 John provides detail about the amount of bread left over. Why do you think he included this?
- Read John 6:25-27. Describe how the disciples and the crowd may have felt being called out by Jesus.
- What is one thing you have asked God to give you that he didn't or hasn't yet? Has this disappointment caused you to take steps toward or away from God?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

What can you do this week to follow Jesus more closely? How can you demonstrate more love for one another? Is there someone in particular to whom you could offer grace and forgiveness? How can this group support and encourage you?



**Message Notes**  
**Week of October 12, 2019**  
**Sign #5 - Healing of a Blind Man**

**OPEN EYES**

John 9:1-22, 24-30, 33-34; 20:31

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have. John 20:31*

*As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:1*

*"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam." John 9:3-7*

*His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. John 9:8-11*

*"I don't know," he said. John 9:12*

*They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." John 9:13-17*

*They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. John 9:18-22*

*A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!" John 9:24-28*

"We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes." John 9:29-30

"If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. John 9:33-34

**BIG IDEA: IT'S \_\_\_\_\_ OKAY NOT TO \_\_\_\_\_ IF  
THERE'S \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*...believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have... John 20:31*

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

*Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." John 9:3*

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## **Community Group Discussion**

### **October 12-13, 2019**

**BIG IDEA: It's not okay not to look if there's something to be seen.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are many products we buy, use and put our confidence in without having all the information or fully understanding how they work. In John we see a man begin to follow Jesus based on limited information. This man, who was born blind, said he only knew one main thing - and that one thing was enough to make him curious about who Jesus really was.

### **ICEBREAKER**

What are some things people put full trust in without having all the information?

### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 9:1-20, 24-25

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Give some examples of proof people would like to have before believing in God.
- Read John 9:1-20. In verse 2, there was an assumption that sin and suffering were connected. Were you raised to believe that?
- In verse 3, Jesus said purpose can be found in the lifelong suffering of the blind man. How does it resonate with you that suffering might have a purpose?
- Think of a season in your life that was difficult through no fault of your own. Is there something about that season that God could use (or did use) to shape your faith? If so, how?
- If you became a follower of Jesus as an adult, was there one pivotal circumstance that caused you to turn to God? If so, what was it?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

It's okay to be wrong. It's okay not to know. But it's not okay not to look if there's something to be seen.

Hope-Joy-Love-Forgiveness-Contentment-Peace-Understanding-Patience

In which of these aspects of your faith journey would you like your eyes opened more? Explain.

How can this group support and encourage you?



## **Message Notes**

**Week of October 19, 2019**

**Sign #6 - Raising of Lazarus**

### **COEXISTENCE**

*John 10:24-25; 11:1, 3-17, 20-27, 33-45, 48; John 3:19; 20:31*

*"How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."*

*Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me." I didn't just tell you. I showed you!*

*John 10:24-25*

*Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. John 11:1*

*So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."*

*John 11:3-7*

*"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."*

*John 11:8-12*

*Jesus had been speaking of Lazarus' death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe..." Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. John 11:13-17*

*When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him... "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."  
John 11:20-24*

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." John 11:25-27*

*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" John 11:33-37*

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb... "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha... "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:38-42

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. John 11:43-45

**BIG IDEA: SEEING AND \_\_\_\_\_ IS THE  
CATALYST FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
AND \_\_\_\_\_ .**

If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation." John 11:48

Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. John 3:19

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have. John 20:31

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:41-42



## **Community Group Discussion**

### **October 19, 2019**

## ***BIG IDEA: Seeing and hearing is the catalyst for believing and trusting.***

### **INTRODUCTION**

At different points in our lives, many of us wonder why a good God would allow bad things to happen. And without a clear response, that could cause us to question God's existence altogether. The Gospel writer John documented an occasion where Jesus not only brought his friend Lazarus back to life but also demonstrated how God can exist in the midst of a world of evil and suffering.

### **ICEBREAKER**

What are some things people put full trust in without having all the information?

### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 11:17-45

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Read John 11:17-45, where the apostle John recounts the story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead.
- What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
- In verse 35, Jesus showed emotion about this situation. What does the fact that Jesus wept say about Him?
- What's your biggest takeaway from this story? What is something that sticks out to you about God when reading this?
- In what ways does the story of Lazarus parallel the story of God's relationship with people?
- In your mind, how does the story of Lazarus address the question, "Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?"

### **MOVING FORWARD**

God not only exists in the midst of a world that has evil and suffering. He chose to engage with it. God didn't eliminate the evil; He placed it on Jesus so we would not perish but have eternal life.

-Do you have a personal example of when something that was tragic helped strengthen your faith? Are you experiencing something tragic now? How can this group pray for you and support you?



## Message Notes

Week of October 26, 2019

Sign #7 - Resurrection of Jesus

### INVITATION TO BELIEVE

John 19:16-18, 30, 35, 38-42; 20:2-8, 24-31

**BIG IDEA: John's account is a simple \_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull. There they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle. John 19:16-18*

*He bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30*

*The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. John 19:35*

*Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus... With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. John 19:38-42*

*"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. John 20:2-8*

*Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side." John 20:24-27*

*Do not be unbelieving, but believing. "Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:27-31*

**What is your next step?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. John 20:29*

## **Community Group Discussion**

### **October 26-27, 2019**

**BIG IDEA: John's account is a simple invitation to believe and to trust.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Following Jesus' crucifixion, his followers expected what anyone expects after someone dies - that the person would remain that way. But one of Jesus' followers, John, gave an eyewitness account that summarized the main event surrounding Christianity. Jesus rose from the dead. In this seventh and final sign that John documents, he makes the case that Jesus is exactly who he claimed to be.

### **ICEBREAKER**

Growing up, what was Easter like for you?

### **KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 19:16-42

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- When was the last time you were surprised by something completely unexpected?
- The four Gospels focus on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. When you think of Jesus, which of those three words most comes to mind? Why?
- Read John 19:16-42. What stands out to you about this passage? What emotions must the disciples have been feeling?
- What are some details about this story that would lead us to believe this actually happened?
- Read John 19:20. While many people believed in Jesus because of what they saw first-hand, why do you think Jesus called people such as us who were not eyewitnesses, "blessed?"

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name* John 20:30-31.

-Share something that you have learned through this series and how you will apply it to your every day life? How can this group support and encourage you?



## **Congratulations on finishing *Bystander!***

I pray that you have found this incredible series and the memories by John, the Bystander, incredible! I would love to hear from you about your experience.

Email [info@community-christian.us](mailto:info@community-christian.us)  
or go online to [community-christian.us/stories](http://community-christian.us/stories)

To share how a moment in time where Bystander has encouraged you, shined a light on your life, opened up some doors or whatever made a difference in your life. I want to hear it!

You may be wondering, "What's next?" As I mentioned at the beginning, Jesus asks us to FOLLOW, then BELIEVE, then OBEY. So if you are beginning to believe... one way that will encourage your belief is by attending a COMMUNITY Celebration Service each weekend. There are 7 to choose from! Here you will find a time of worship and teaching that will encourage your new walk with Jesus.

[Campbell - community-christian.us/locations/campbell/](http://community-christian.us/locations/campbell/)

[Morgan Hill - community-christian.us/locations/morgan-hill/](http://community-christian.us/locations/morgan-hill/)

[Gilroy - community-christian.us/locations/gilroy/](http://community-christian.us/locations/gilroy/)

I also encourage you to CONNECT in a group:

[community-christian.us/groups/](http://community-christian.us/groups/)

And as Jesus did, begin to serve:

[community-christian.us/contribute/serving/](http://community-christian.us/contribute/serving/)



**Kyle Windsor**  
Senior Pastor

If you were already a Christ-Follower prior to beginning Bystander, I hope your faith has been strengthened, and you are ready to be a 3C Christ-Follower who Celebrates, Connects, and Contributes to the kingdom of God here at COMMUNITY. Let me know how I can help or any questions I can answer ([info@community-christian.us](mailto:info@community-christian.us))!





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