



Challenges to our faith come in all forms: the storms of life, the doubts we face, or the insecurity we feel. In this rotating series, EJ Brown, Emmanuel Dominguez, and Taylor Walling will take us into stories in the Gospel to show how God meets us when our faith feels questionable.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Has there ever been a time you were embarrassed about being a Christian? Share with the group what made you feel awkward or insecure about your faith in Jesus.

2 Read **John 3:1-2; John 7:45-52; and John 19:38-42**. The three times Nicodemus shows up in John's gospel offer us three ways of relating to Jesus: **1) Seeking out** in John 3, **2) Speaking up** in John 7, and **3) Sacrificing** in John 19. Do you see yourself in one or more of these phases? Share about a season you were seeking out, speaking up, or sacrificing because of your faith in Christ.

3 Read **Luke 12:8. Jesus deserves nothing less than total allegiance**. God's Word encourages to be unashamed of our faith in Jesus (*see Romans 1:16-17; 2 Timothy 1:8; Galatians 6:14; or 1 John 2:28*). How can we be confident in our faith without becoming overbearing or condescending to people we know who aren't Christians?

4 Read **John 3:1-21**. Nicodemus emphasizes what he knows. But faith isn't just an intellectual exercise. It's a transformative relationship. What sticks out to you in Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus? What does Jesus' use of **Numbers 21:4-9** tell us about saving faith?

5 Read **Titus 3:3-7. Jesus offers nothing less than total transformation**. The difference between Nicodemus and followers of Jesus is that Nicodemus was deciding if he wanted to associate with Jesus. But Christians go beyond association; they have become one with Jesus. As Paul writes in **Galatians 2:20**, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."* This is an important but often confusing reality. How would you explain this idea of "new birth" and "being one with Christ" to someone who was seeking out Jesus?

6 Finish by thanking God for the union you have in Christ. Ask the Spirit to make you wise and bold in how you live with a public allegiance to Jesus.

