



I. Intro: Believers

"Peter stood up and addressed *the believers*, who numbered about 120..." Acts 1:15

II. Defining Believe

- A. 3 Related Words
- B. In Greek "*pisteuo*"
- C. Always attached to an object

III. Belief & the Old Testament

- A. The history of faith
 - 1. Abraham **Gen. 15: 2, 5-6**
 - 2. Jacob/Israel **Gen 32:9-11**
 - 3. The Israelites **Exodus 14:31**
 - 4. King David **2 Samuel 7:18-19, 29**
- B. The importance of reading the Bible
- C. The importance of community

IV. What IS faith?

A. It's a _____ human capacity.

all people have "a set of faith-assumptions about the nature of things. It is an implicit religion. Broadly understood, faith in some view of the world and human nature informs everyone's life. Everyone lives and operates out of some narrative identity, whether it is thought out and reflected upon or not. All who say "You ought to do this" or "You shouldn't do that" reason out of such an implicit moral and religious position... Even the most secular pragmatists come to the table with deep commitments and narrative accounts of what it means to be human."

(Tim Keller, The Reason for God, pg. 16)

B. It is NOT a _____ leap!

C. Image of Leaning

1. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and **lean** not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

2. Leaning on other things>Idols

D. Faith equals _____

"Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."

James 2:18b, 19

"Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes." **Bonhoeffer**

The wheelbarrow illustration

V. The Exclusivity of Jesus

- A. Jesus' claim: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**
- B. The question of exclusivity
- C. Why Christianity is exclusively unique and compelling

It's founder

It's method of salvation

It's vision for the future

"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 20:31**

D GROUP QUESTIONS:

What point, phrase or image stuck out to you in this class? What do you think God wants you to do with it practically?

If someone said in a conversation with you, "It doesn't really matter what you believe as long as you just have faith." How would you respond?

Where in your life do you find yourself exercising faith/trust in Jesus? (Or where do you see the need to exercise greater trust in Jesus and the things he is saying to you?)

HOMEWORK: (1) Convo Lab: "Do you believe in God/a higher power? Why/Why not? If so, are they personally interested in your life?" (2) Continue Nouwen's Out Of Solitude (3) Read: Mark 7-8