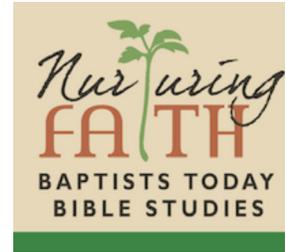


Youth Teaching Resources

April 3, 2016



Close Encounters of the Jesus Kind: Conversations with Jesus (April 3-May 8)

A Disciple We Can Like — John 20:19-31

One Shepherd to Another — John 21:1-19

Ask the Sheep — John 10:22-30

A Serious Summary — John 13:31-35

www.baptiststoday.org

Subscribe to *Baptists Today* to access the core Bible content for this lesson.

www.nurturingfaith.net

Find links and videos related to this lesson.

A Disciple We Can Like

John 20:19-31

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

The focus of this section has changed from teacher-centered to parent-centered. This will be a brief, less than 150 word, introduction to what their student has discussed during their small group time and a way that the conversation can be discussed at home as well.

“Prove it to me!” or “Why?” It’s a common exhortation from the mouth of teenagers. They search for answers, and then when they get them, they want to know how and why you believe what you said. With the advent of the internet and answers at the tips of their fingers in nano-seconds, answers are easy to come by. What students quickly learn is that where the information comes from is as important as what the information actually is.

“Because I said so.” is an answer that is often given in response to “prove it” or “why”. Sometimes we utter this because we don’t have a better response at the time and other times, we say it because it really is true. It is what we have said. For our students to believe the “Because I said so” we have to be involved in our student’s life. We can’t just pop in and out of their life. We have to be present consistently, so that when we say “Because I’ve said so.” they have seen it lived out in our life.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by showing the clip “I Trust Her” from *Zoolander 2*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why do they trust her?
- 2) Why do they need to trust her?
- 3) Does the situation you are in depend on if you trust someone or not?
- 4) Can you doubt someone and still believe in them?
- 5) How do trust and doubt play a role in your faith?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading John 20:19-31. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information from THE BIBLE LESSON in *Baptists Today*.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why might Thomas not have been with the disciples when Jesus first appeared to them?
- 2) Why did the disciples need to believe and trust that this was Jesus before they received the Holy Spirit from Jesus?
- 3) Do you think Thomas is wrong in questioning Jesus? Explain your answer?
- 4) How are the doubts of Thomas like our own doubts today?
- 5) Is it wrong to doubt your faith? Explain your answer.

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in “Digging Deeper” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide). You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Why does God call us away from fear?
- 2) How can this text be read as the disciples being comforted, commissioned, and consecrated?
- 3) How is the disciples’ receiving of the Spirit different from the day of Pentecost?
- 4) How is it comforting only having Jesus as a road map? How can this bring about discomfort?

You may also want your group to discuss “The Hardest Question” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide): How can we believe?

Transformation

Conclude your session by leading the group through the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*. You may want to pause after each section for you students to share in small groups what they have heard through the reading. When you have completed the practice, close your session with a time of prayer.

Close with a prayer for patience when there is doubt and hope when all seems dark.