



Our Talk It Over is designed to prompt insights and dialogue based on the life experience of each participant. Using these in a group setting after hearing the message is similar to the practices of the early church in Israel. Choose just one or a few of the questions to consider this week. It's also a great tool for individual reflection.

WEEK 2: A Word About the Bible and the Historical Jesus

WARM UP

What's something you believed as a kid that you see completely differently now?

DISCUSS

1. Think about a story you've told more than once... something that happened years ago, for example. How does the story change depending on what you remember, what you emphasize, or who you're telling it to?
2. When something you've always believed is challenged, what's your first reaction: get curious, get defensive, ignore it, or something else?
3. Why do you think it can be difficult to admit that we have questions about faith?
4. Have you ever had a question about God or the Bible that made you wonder whether you could really trust what you believed? What did you do with that question?
5. The teachings of Jesus can change our lives, but "if you let them" means we have to be willing to do something with what we hear. Is it difficult for you to let Jesus challenge or change the way you already think and live? Why?
6. Where might you need to move from simply knowing what Jesus taught to actually putting one of his teachings into practice?



APPLY

Read Matthew 13. Try reading a paragraph each day, perhaps first thing in the morning. As you read, notice what Jesus says about the Kingdom of Heaven. Choose one teaching or phrase that you want to keep thinking about or even memorize.

PRAY

Jesus, we want to know you, not just know *about* you. Give us the courage to ask honest questions, the humility to keep learning, and the openness to hear what you are saying to us. As we read your words, help us not simply understand them, but **let them change our lives**. Show us where we need to think differently, live differently, and trust you more. Amen.