

WHEN SKEPTICS ENCOUNTER JESUS

BIG IDEA

Skeptics are welcome in Jesus' movement, so don't give up on the skeptic within you or around you!

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the following scriptures: Acts 7:54-60, 8:1-4, 9:1-9, 9:15 and 9:20

OPENER

Do you have a Jesus skeptic in your life? If so, what is your role in their journey to find Jesus?

QUESTIONS

1. The stoning of Stephen had "unintended consequences" for Saul. His plan was to kill Stephen and eradicate the Church, what were the unintended consequences that advanced the church? (See Acts 8:1-4)
2. Before you were a Christian, were you a skeptic? If yes, share what occurred in your life that caused you to believe in Jesus.
3. Saul lost his eyesight on the road to Damascus. Did you or someone you know have "a painful experience" before believing in Jesus?
4. If you were a skeptic, how much "proof" did you require to accept Christ? Was your "proof" requirement really a need for information or was it an issue of pride or perhaps you did not want to be held accountable to God? Explain.
5. Transformation is only done by Jesus. However, as followers of Christ, we can plant the seed of God's word, share our changed lives, and pray for the transformation in the lives of the skeptics we know. Which of these do you find most difficult? Explain.
6. Discuss specific ways we can incorporate the above three important steps into our lives.

TAKEAWAY

God has answers to every skeptic's honest questions!

Whether the skeptic on your heart is a relative, a friend, or you yourself – encourage that skeptic to seek the truth, to consider the interconnected detail of creation and call out to the Creator.

Remember to: Plant the seed of God’s word,
Water with the sharing of your changed life
Pray that Jesus will shine his light and transform!

There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man, which cannot be filled by any created thing; but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.
Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

REFERENCES

- Acts 7:54-60
- Genesis 50:20
- Acts 8:1-4
- Acts 9:1-9, 9:15, 9:20
- Acts 22:3-16
- Acts 26:4-18
- Acts 6 & 7 (about Stephen)

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why do you think God chose Paul to be the apostle to the Gentiles?
2. Your conversion story may not be as dramatic as John Newton’s; but God has also chosen you, what has He called you to do?
3. John shared in his sermon how God uses His greatest skeptics in powerful ways. Like the good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30), how can we multiply our efforts through invitation (relationship), showing Christ’s love and prayer for the skeptics in our lives?