

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 12:36b-50

DISCUSSION 1: Fulfilled Unbelief (vs.36b-41)

1. What are some popular reasons people do not believe in Jesus today? What are some reasons that were difficult for you to believe before you placed your faith in Jesus?
2. What is unbelief? What are people really saying when they say they don't believe in Jesus? How is unbelief different from indecision? Did the people in our passage have a lack of understanding of who Jesus was or lack understanding of his power and message? How does this help us understand the nature of unbelief?
3. What prophecies were fulfilled in this section? What is your initial response to these verses quoted in Isaiah? What questions or objections come to your mind?
4. **Read Isaiah 6:1-13.** How does the context of this passage help us understand who God is and how it relates to the greater themes in the book of John?
5. What was the explanation John gives for Isaiah's inspiration (vs41)? How does God's glory relate to our belief or unbelief?
6. Should we stop evangelizing because God says that some *could not believe*? Why or Why not?

DISCUSSION 2: Fearful Unbelief (vs. 42-43)

1. **Read Romans 10:9-13.** According to these verses, what is necessary to be saved?
2. In our passage, what were the authorities fearful of that kept them from confessing Jesus? Do you think that these people truly believed in Jesus? Why or why not?
3. How does the fear of man tempt us to act as if we don't believe in Jesus? What do we need to believe to combat this temptation?

DISCUSSION 3: Faith-filled Belief (vs. 44-50)

1. What does Jesus promise to those who believe? How does true faith manifest itself in a believer? What ought we to do when we fail to live out what we believe?
2. How can we as a church help one another hear the words of Christ and keep them?
3. How ought the coming judgement from God the Father motivate us to tell the gospel to our neighbors, friends and families?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? What do we believe Jesus did for us?
2. Who gives us the ability to believe in Jesus?
3. Who do you know today that doesn't believe in Jesus? Pray to God, with your family, that God would give him or her a heart to believe.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **God's Sovereignty & Hard Hearts:** Ex. 8:19,32; 9:12,10:1; Duet. 29:2-4; Ez.36:25-27; Acts 28:25-28; Romans 9:14-18; 11:7-25; 2 Thess. 2: 9-12