

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday?
Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. *Would you describe yourself as easily convinced or more skeptical?*
2. *What was an experience you had where you found yourself being skeptical? Was your skepticism proven right or wrong? What did it take for you to move from skepticism to being convinced?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

Over the centuries, people have had different perspectives on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes we forget that there were even differences among the eyewitnesses that were actually there. The Chief Priests & Jewish Council give us a Vantage Point that even the most religious can become the most skeptical.

- *Read Matthew 26:57-68. What questions or insights do you have from this text? What do you think caused the Chief Priest & Jewish Council to be so skeptical about Jesus' claims? If you were part of the Jewish council, would you have been skeptical about Jesus' claims to be God? Why or why not?*
- *Skepticism is defined as "a person inclined to question or doubt all accepted opinions." Are there places in your life today that you find yourself to be a bit skeptical about God and the promises in his Word?*

Read Luke 18:18-34. In Luke 18 Jesus has a conversation with a very religious Rich Young ruler. Yet for this young successful man his skepticism keeps him from experiencing a life with Jesus.

- *What was the rich, young ruler's question to Jesus? See Vs. 18. Was the response Jesus gave to the young ruler's question acceptable to him? What do you think the young ruler was expecting to hear from Jesus?*
- *What did Jesus ask the rich, young ruler to do that caused him such skepticism? If you were in the rich, young ruler's shoes, how would you respond? If the young ruler obeyed Jesus' request, what could have been the outcome in this young ruler's life?*
- *What is the point that Jesus is trying to make in Vs. 24-27? Is there a circumstance in your life that currently seems outside of all human reason, but with God in the picture could make the impossible possible?*
- *How does Jesus show compassion & encouragement to those that have obeyed Jesus, but have yet to see a reward? See Vs. 29-30. How does this encourage you in your own skepticism?*
- *In Vs. 31-34 Jesus specifically describes how he will die and rise again. Yet the disciples did not understand. What do you think caused a lack of understanding in the disciples?*

Digging Deeper

- *On Sunday, Pastor Jason described three ways we can accidentally become a skeptic? Which one do you feel applies the most to you and why?*
- *On Sunday, we discovered three ways Jesus responded to the Skeptical Chief Priest and Jewish Council. Have you experienced these in your own skepticism? How can you use these three in your own response to a skeptical friend or family member in the coming weeks?*

VANTAGE POINT:

CHIEF PRIESTS (SKEPTICS)

Matt 26:57-68 // April 2nd, 2017

Matthew 26:57 (ESV) *Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.*

From The Chief Priests Vantage Point...

EVEN THE MOST RELIGIOUS CAN BECOME SKEPTICS.

[SKEPTIC]

A person inclined to question or doubt all accepted opinions.

Matthew 26:58-59 (ESV) *And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.*

HOW TO BECOME AN ACCIDENTAL SKEPTIC:

1. LIMIT GOD TO WHAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.
2. LIMIT GOD TO WHAT HE DID IN THE PAST NOT WHAT HE CAN DO IN THE FUTURE.
3. LIMIT GOD BY LIMITING YOUR OBEDIENCE

HOW DOES JESUS RESPOND TO SKEPTICS?

Matthew 26:60-63 (ESV) *At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent.*

1. SILENCE.

Matthew 26:63-64 (ESV) *And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

2. SPEAK TRUTH REGARDLESS OF RESPONSE.

Matthew 26:65-68 (ESV) *Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"*

3. SHOW COMPASSION TO THE LOST.

Luke 23:34-35 (ESV) *And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"*