

## Getting Started

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Welcome to another week of Online Connect Groups! It's our hope to get to know each other a bit better, support one another through this time, pray together and discuss the scriptures using questions connected to the weekend's sermon in the ["That You May Believe" series](#) on the [gospel of John](#).

We do not provide a lot of space for your answers to these questions, so we suggest that you have a journal handy to write down your thoughts. You are not expected to have time for all these questions during your online meeting, but we encourage you to reflect on them and jot down your thoughts on your own.

## Getting to Know Each Other *(Suggested time: 30 min)*

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Take some time to get to know one another! We recommend not rushing through this time – having a bit more familiarity with one another will make both the study and prayer time more meaningful. Here are a couple of questions to help if you want to answer them:

- Who was your favorite teacher growing up and what did you like most about him/her?
- What is something you believe in so deeply (besides Jesus) that it guides your daily life? Can you give an example of how it guides your daily life?

## Study Questions *(Suggested time: 40 min)*

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*\*\*Please complete these questions prior to your group's meeting time. Your group's host will select 2-4 questions that will be discussed together during your gathering time.\*\**

- 1) This passage opens with a statement indicating Jesus had performed many signs, but the people did not believe in Him.
  - There is a mystery to how God's sovereignty works in conjunction with human responsibility. He does His part and people are responsible for their part. **What are some evidences in this text that people still had the freedom to believe or not?**

- Are there people in your life that struggle to believe in Jesus? What do you think is keeping them from believing?

**2)** In verses 42-43, Jesus talks about people who believed in him but not publicly because of fear of the Pharisees. They loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

- In your life when have you struggled with wanting the approval of people rather than the approval of God? Why do you think that is?

- What would it look like for you to live for the approval of God more than the approval of people? What are some specific examples?

**3)** In verses 44-45, Jesus talks about his relationship with his Father and that to see Jesus is to see the Father. This idea is found in other places in scripture as well.

- Read John 14:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-3, Colossians 1:13-15.

- How does this idea and these verses help you understand what the Father is like?

- Is there anything you need to change about your view of the Father? If so, how can you go about changing your view?

