

QUESTIONS FOR JESUS

Part 1: No Reason to Panic About the Bible

Big Idea

The Gospels are reliable accounts of actual historical events.

Key Scriptures

Luke 1:1–4

Discussion Questions

- What's one question you had as a kid that took you a really long time to get a satisfying answer to?
- If you could ask any famous person from history one question and get a straight answer, who would you pick and what would you ask?
- Have you ever had a question about faith dismissed or shut down? What was that like, and how did it affect how you engaged with faith after that?
- What was one thing from the message that surprised you, challenged you, or that you want to think more about?

Read Luke 1:1–4

- Luke opens his account by saying he carefully investigated the events and wanted his reader to be certain, to have something solid to stand on. What does it say about Luke's intent that he chose to write it this way rather than just saying "this is what God told me"?
- How does it change your view of the Gospels to know they were written as historical accounts that could be fact-checked, rather than as divine dictations like other religious texts?

- The message highlighted that Christianity is unusual because it anchors itself to datable, verifiable historical events, emperors, governors, places. Why do you think that matters, especially for someone who's skeptical about faith?
- Chris shared that the New Testament documents are considered the best preserved texts from all of ancient history, even by secular historians. Did that surprise you? How does it sit with you?
- The idea that "winners write history" usually means the powerful get to control the story. But the message said the New Testament is a "history from below" written in the common language of everyday people, not elites. What do you make of that?
- We explored the comparison of other ancient figures (Alexander the Great, Tiberius, the Buddha, Muhammad) and noted that we have earlier, more numerous sources for Jesus than for any of them. For someone who's wrestled with "how can we really know anything about Jesus?" What does that argument do for you?
- What's one question about faith that you've been carrying around for a while, either one you're genuinely curious about or one that's kept you at a distance from Jesus?
- Chris said you don't have to check your brain at the door to follow Jesus. For someone sitting in this room or listening online who's been told the opposite, that faith requires ignoring hard questions, what would you want to say to them?

Challenge Question (For Takeaway):

This week, take one step with one question.

Identify the question about faith that feels most alive for you right now. Then do one of these three things:

- 1. Write it down:** Don't just carry it in your head. Getting it on paper is the first step to actually exploring it.
- 2. Bring it to someone:** A friend, a leader, or someone in your group. Questions grow better in conversation than in isolation.
- 3. Sign up for Alpha:** We're launching Alpha at the end of this series. It's built for exactly this: a no-pressure space to ask your questions and explore faith with others. Sign up at beyondchurch.com.au