

# BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

## 4. The Core

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read 1 Corinthians 2.1-5

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.*

- Philip touched on reasons for faith that are Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual. Take it in turns to share some of your own thoughts on those three areas. What has your thinking been? What has your experience been?
- Discuss the historical evidence for faith in Jesus. What elements impress you most about the historical record – the Public Execution, the Empty Tomb, the 500 Witnesses or the conversion of those initially in the Opposition?
- v2. *'I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.'* What difference does it make if our faith in God is based wholly on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and all else is secondary? Does the Core model of faith work for you?
- v4. *'with a demonstration of the Spirit's power'*. Faith is not simply a matter of intellectual and historical reasons alone, we should expect God's power. What does this look like? Have you experienced it yourself, or in the lives of others?

Big Idea: 'Our faith in God's existence and loving character is based entirely on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We build our lives on that firm foundation.'

Pray together in smaller groups. Pray for a stronger confidence in Jesus Christ as Cornerstone, the firm foundation of our faith. And pray for any in the group still exploring faith, for an experience of God's power, as well as compelling reasons to believe.

Finally, pray for friends outside of church to discover this life-changing story for themselves. Pray for wisdom, power and opportunities to share the good news with others. Pray for a dynamic explosion of faith in Jesus, just like in the early days of the church.