

**“Giving Up Our Disbelief”**  
**John 20:1-9; 24-29**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions, p. 1**

**Hope Fellowship**  
**April 5, 2015**

**Getting Started**

1. Begin by telling each other about your Easter weekend and share your overall reactions to the Good Friday and Easter morning services.
  - a. Would you agree that Easter Sunday is the greatest celebration on the church calendar? Why?
  - b. Would you agree that Christ’s death and resurrection is the heart of the gospel message and the Christian faith? (See [Romans 10:9-10](#) and [I Corinthians 15:14](#))
2. Review the four hopeful things about the resurrection that were mentioned in the first half of Sunday’s message. Which one resonates the most with you today? Why? Which one needs some more thought and appreciation from you? Why?
3. Read the account of Christ’s resurrection in [John 20:1-9](#) and [24-29](#).
  - a. The writer of the gospel, John, “saw and believed” (: 8). Thomas said “unless I see ... I will not believe it” (:25). As you compare these two responses, how do you think you would have responded at the time?
  - b. Do you remember a time when you did not believe the resurrection or questioned its factuality? How did you resolve it for yourself?
  - c. Is it OK to doubt? How is doubt different than disbelief?
  - d. What part does the Holy Spirit play in believing? (See [I Corinthians 12:3](#))

**Going Deeper**

1. Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*, calls faith “the great cop-out” and “an excuse not to think.” In response, Sunday’s sermon suggested some helpful strategies for giving up our disbelief:
  - Recognize that everybody is religious.
  - Understand that science and faith are not incompatible.
  - Use your God-given ability to reason to reject worldviews that create despair.
  - Use your God-given capacity for faith to embrace the story that gives us hope.
  - a. Which of these insights did you find to be the most helpful? Why?
  
  - b. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (:29). Discuss some of the ways that your resurrection faith has blessed you.
  
2. Lent and the “Giving It Up” sermon series are over. What did you get out of this series of messages? And what will you do with what you heard and learned about “giving up” our expectations, control, grievances, pride and disbelief?
  
3. Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you learned on Easter Sunday about giving up our disbelief?