

what if it's true?

REASONS TO BELIEVE

SERIES OVERVIEW

Deep within the soul of every human there exist yearnings and desires for something more. We all recognize, even if we can't always put it into words, that our world is broken. Things are not what they are meant to be. We long for love but have our hearts betrayed. We yearn for freedom and power but find ourselves trapped in addiction and corruption. We deeply desire justice, truth, and beauty, but struggle to find them in the mess of the world around us. Our longing for meaningful spirituality is too often left unmet by hollow religiosity and meaningless fads. In this series, we will explore our belief that these seven "broken signposts" are actually pointing to a single, world-changing reality: the transforming love of Christ.

Our guide through these topics will be the gospel of John. This book, perhaps more than any other in the New Testament, is a heartfelt plea by the Apostle John for his readers to understand that Jesus is the answer to their heart's deepest yearnings. In these pages we will explore our hope that in Christ we can discover the life of love, justice, spirituality, truth, freedom, beauty, and power we were meant to live.

WEEK 1 - I COULD BE WRONG (INTRODUCTION) OVERVIEW

In this introductory message, we will explore how powerful it can be to acknowledge that we don't know everything, even as we choose to believe. We will learn a sentence which can help us all tell our stories of faith in a way that doesn't bash people over the heads but invites conversation and relationship instead. "I could be wrong, but here's why I believe..." This message will also set up the idea of seven "Broken Signposts," so called by N.T. Wright in his book of the same name, which point the way to a truth beyond ourselves: that a God of love has stepped into our story to bring us back to the life he longs for us to have. What better entry point to this idea than the gospel of John's account of Jesus meeting with Nicodemus and describing this beautiful reality?

This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many countries have you visited? Have you ever experienced a cultural difference with someone, as Barry described?
2. What are your thoughts about a pastor, a church, saying, "we could be wrong..."?
3. Read [John 3:1-3](#). How do you understand the idea of being *born again*?
4. Read [John 3:13-15](#) and [Numbers 21:8](#). Why was Jesus comparing the Son of Man (himself) to a bronze snake on a pole?
5. Read [John 3:16-17](#).
 - a. Why did God love the world? Does God still love the world today? How do you know?
 - b. What does it mean to *perish* (*apollymi* in the Greek)? What could *not perishing* look like for us?
 - c. What is *eternal life*? What could *eternal life* mean for people right now?
 - d. What do you think God is offering in this passage, and how does someone accept that offer?