

Small Group Discussion Guide

Choosing to Believe in an Age of Unbelief

September 13, 2026

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I. Opportunities Presented

Read Acts 26:28 and Mark 10:17–22 aloud.

King Agrippa heard Paul explain the gospel and responded, **“You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”** He had an opportunity to respond, but “almost” was not enough. Likewise, the wealthy man in Mark approached Jesus seeking eternal life, but when Jesus challenged him to surrender what stood between him and wholehearted obedience, he walked away sad. Both stories remind us that God gives us opportunities to respond, but **“almost persuaded” is still not persuaded**—faith requires a willing response.

- **What stands out to you about the difference between being “almost persuaded” and being fully persuaded?**

II. The Dynamic of Belief

Read John 11:38–40, 2 Timothy 1:11–12, and Matthew 8:10–13 aloud.

Belief is not static. It is continually being strengthened or weakened by what we believe, what we experience, and how we respond to God. Our faith can grow as we trust God, or it can diminish when fear, disappointment, possessions, or circumstances become more important than Him. This is the challenge for us. Faith grows when we continue to place our trust in God, even when circumstances give us reasons to doubt. We may not understand everything God is doing, but we can become increasingly persuaded about who He is.

- **How can our circumstances cause our faith to grow or diminish?**
- **Share a situation or circumstance that either grew OR diminished your faith. What caused your faith to grow or diminish?**
- **What helps you keep trusting God when circumstances are difficult?**

“Almost Persuaded”

The phrase “almost persuaded” should cause us to pause. There are decisions in life where “almost” is acceptable, but following Jesus is not one of them. We cannot remain permanently on the fence. We eventually must decide what we believe and what we will do with that belief. Genuine faith moves us from knowing about Jesus to trusting Jesus, and from trusting Jesus to following Jesus.

- **What does it mean to know *whom* you believe rather than simply knowing *what* you believe?**

III. I Am Persuaded

Read the 7 statements of declaration as a group aloud.

I am persuaded; Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

John 14:6 (NIV®) *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jesus is not simply one option among many. He is the way to the Father and the source of truth and life.*

I am persuaded; Scripture is inspired by God and is necessary and profitable for my life.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (HCSB®) *All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. God has not left us without direction. His Word provides what we need to live wisely and faithfully.*

I am persuaded; God Almighty made the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them.

Colossians 1:16–17 (NIV®) *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Our lives are not accidents without purpose. We belong to the One who created us.*

I am persuaded; I have been reconciled to God, accepted and approved by Him.

Colossians 1:21–22 (NIV®) *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*

I am persuaded; I have been delivered from the domain of darkness.

Colossians 1:13–14 (NASB®) *For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

I am persuaded; Jesus is returning triumphantly.

Revelation 1:7 (NIV®) *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. Jesus' return gives us hope and reminds us that history is ultimately moving toward God's purposes.*

I am persuaded; Jesus is building His Church, and I intend to assist in every possible way.

Matthew 16:18–19 (NIV®) *"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* We are not merely spectators. If we are persuaded that Jesus is Lord, then we have a part to play in His mission. We serve, give, encourage, pray, love, and share the good news.

- **Of the "I am persuaded" statements, which one is most meaningful to you right now, and why?**

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your Truth and for every opportunity You give us to know You and follow You. Strengthen our faith and help us live each day with confidence in You and a willingness to serve Your purposes. In Jesus' name, amen.