

## The desire to believe in something?

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and Mark 8:27-29

### 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

### Mark 8:27-29

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked.

"Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Bible passages taken from NIV 2011

### Agree or disagree?

### Examples people give.

### Is this the way God has made us?

### Belief can mean a number of things.

### As Christians, we believe in God.

### A stumbling block and foolishness to those who are not.

### Wisdom and power to us.

### Who and what we believe matters to God.

### God knowing we believe in Him is our reassurance.

## A Bible Study

### Pray:

Heavenly Father, help us to be considerate of each other and aware of others needs as well as our own. Help us to feel safe and confident to be self-aware. Give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means and the willingness to put it into practice. May knowing you, and being known by you, be of great comfort and reassurance to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Share, listen and comment:

"Everyone has a desire to believe in something or someone". Do you agree or disagree? Why? Support your thought with an example you've observed in others. How varied are people's beliefs?

### Be self-aware. This time listen to each other without comment:

Undoubtedly, as a Christian, you believe in God. However, who or what else do you believe in? Why? Does your belief in God differ from your belief in these? How and why? What do you learn about yourself from that? (*Maybe one or two might feel comfortable to share*)

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and Mark 8:27-29

### Ask and answer:

What do we learn from these two passages about a belief in God compared to a believe in other people or things?

Do you think that God has made us with the desire to believe in something or someone? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

How have you found your belief in God a help? How did you come to believe in God?

When you become aware of another persons beliefs what things could you bring up in the conversation with them? (Try and come up with a Bible verse to support your action e.g Acts 17:16-34 )

### Close with a prayer.