



## THE BIG IDEA

Wherever it is in your faith that you are absolutely sure and solid, God will allow you to go through experiences that challenge it.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Because the more we evolve and change, the more our beliefs will be challenged by our experiences.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Hold onto our beliefs, but hold on to them loosely. Engage with questions and information with humility, and trust that God is with us through all circumstances.

## START HERE

We want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed any of the messages from Sunday, you can catch up [here](#).

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

This week's message begins our series on the Beatitudes. Ryan gave an overview of why the Beatitudes are important to the Christian life.

### Discussion Questions

If you were raised in the church, you were taught that God and Satan are not partners. They don't collaborate and decide how the lives of human beings ought to play out. They certainly don't get together and have conversations. They are immortal enemies. Light vs. Dark, Incorruptible vs. Corruptible, Loving vs. Malicious, Hope vs. Despair.

And yet, this text very plainly states, Satan enters God's sanctuary, and they collaborate together about the life of Job.

### What does that mean? Is that really how it works?

Ryan told a story about holding chickens. Just as a refresher, Ryan almost strangled a baby chicken in the mall when he was a kid because he was holding on too tight to it.

**What was the point of his story? How are baby chickens similar to our beliefs?**

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Book- *"Job and the Mystery of Suffering"* by **Richard Rohr**
- More resources posted on the Forefront blog- [READ](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 24th

- Newcomers Dinner, 7pm

### February 23rd

- Introverts Gathering at the office

Ryan discussed 3 types of people when it comes to beliefs.

### TYPE ONE

For some of us, our beliefs are things we hold onto very tightly. We do this out of fear. We don't want our beliefs to ever change or get away from us. It doesn't matter what we've been told about how to hold onto our beliefs, no matter how good the information. We choose to squeeze, to protect, and to defend them. We are rigid people. We have no flexibility in our methods. Things are black and white. Right and wrong. There is no middle ground.

### TYPE TWO

For others of us, the idea of belief (of faith) is something that's just so squirmy and unpredicable, and hard to hold onto, so we choose not to hold onto anything at all. We are alone in the cosmos, and that's just the way it is.

What's unfortunate is that we often opt out of belief because we see so many contradictions in faith. We see people holding onto belief so tightly in the face of insurmountable evidence that debunks everything that is truly real, and that causes us to label faith as a thing of fables.

### TYPE THREE

But then, there is a third type. A type which I believe the scriptures as a whole are trying to get us to adopt. This type holds onto belief, but holds on loosely. These people leave some wiggle room for their beliefs to evolve, adapt, and expand. They don't let go completely, but they also don't hold on too tightly either. They aren't searching for easy answers, and they are okay living in state of belief that is flexible enough to absorb new information and assimilate it without becoming one of the other two types.

**Which type are you relate to? Has that changed over time? Why?**