

**BELIEVE**

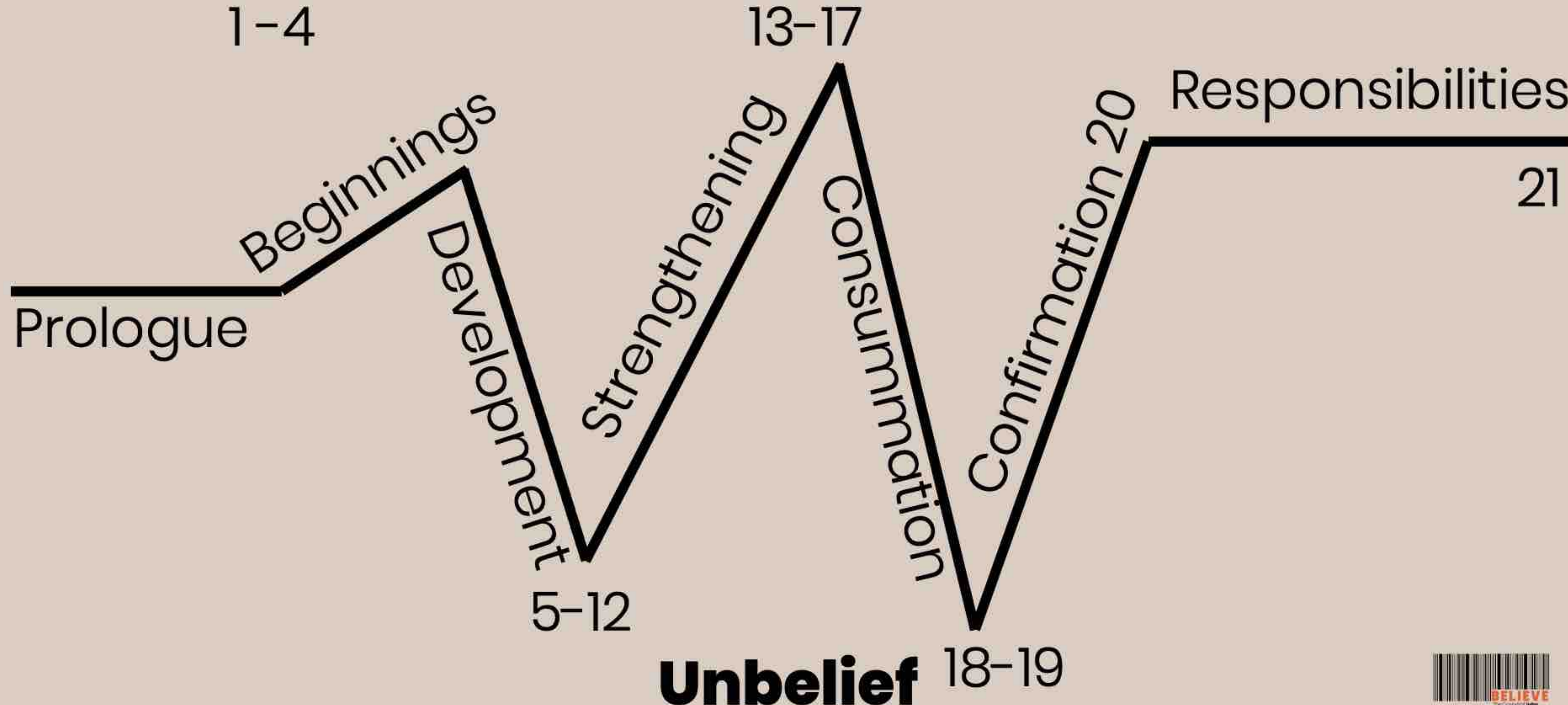
The Gospel of **John**

# John 6

- The Feeding of the 5,000 (1-15)
- Jesus walks on water (16-20)
- Bread of Life Discourse (21-59)
- Rejection and Acceptance (60-71)



# Belief



# Unbelief





<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

**John 6:60–63 ESV**





<sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup> And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

**John 6:64-66 ESV**





<sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” <sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

**John 6:67-71 ESV**



# True and False Disciples

## I. Offense and Rejection



# I. **Offense and Rejection**

a. Offended by Jesus





**Hard** –*Sklēros*  
Hard to accept/tolerate



**Hard** – *Sklēros*

Hard to accept/tolerate

**Offense** – *Skandalizo*

To offend or scandalize





<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is **living** and **active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing** to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and **discerning** the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**John 6:14-15 ESV**



# What words were hard to accept?

1. Kingdom over politics



<sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” <sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and **take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**John 6:14-15 ESV**



# What words were hard to accept?

1. Kingdom over politics
2. Spiritual Emphasis



<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you **ate your fill of the loaves.** <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.

**John 6:26–27 ESV**



*“Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in':  
aim at Earth and you will get neither.”*

**C.S. Lewis**





# What words were hard to accept?

1. Kingdom over politics
2. Spiritual Emphasis
3. Failure of human effort

<sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “**What must we do**, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

**John 6:28–29 ESV**





# What words were hard to accept?

1. Kingdom over politics
2. Spiritual Emphasis
3. Failure of human effort
4. Total Commitment



<sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.** <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

**John 6:53–56 ESV**





<sup>24</sup>...If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> **For whoever would save his life will lose it,** but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**John 6:24-25 ESV**



**People are still scandalized by the  
Word of Jesus.**





# Questions

1. When have your own expectations of Jesus clashed with His teachings?
2. What aspects of Jesus' teaching do you find most challenging or countercultural today?
3. Are you willing to let the Word of God challenge and critique you?



<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples **turned back** and **no longer walked with him.**

**John 6:66 ESV**





# I. **Offense and Rejection**

- a. Offended by Jesus
- b. Reject Jesus



<sup>47</sup> If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

**John 12:47-48 ESV**





<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is **narrow** and **the way is hard** that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

**Matthew 7:13-14 ESV**



*“Anyone who has any conceivable alternative to Jesus Christ is not a Christian.”*

**Martyn Lloyd Jones**





# True and False Disciples

- I. Offense and Rejection
- II. God's Sovereign Illumination



<sup>63</sup> **It is the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup> And he said, “This is why I told you that **no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**”

**John 6:63–65 ESV**





# II. God's Sovereign Illumination

a. The Father Draws



44 No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day.

**John 6:44 ESV**





# II. God's Sovereign Illumination

- a. The Father Draws
- b. The Spirit Illuminates





<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might understand** the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. <sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are **spiritually discerned.**

**1 Corinthians 2:12-14 ESV**





# II. God's Sovereign Illumination

- a. The Father Draws
- b. The Spirit Illuminates
- c. We are Responsible

<sup>12</sup>...**work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is **God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Philippians 2:12-13 ESV**





<sup>23</sup>...this Jesus, delivered up according to the **definite plan** and foreknowledge of God, **you crucified** and killed by the hands of lawless men."

**Acts 2:23 ESV**



- Pray that the Father would draw you and others.
- Pray for the Spirit's illumination.
- Take personal responsibility for your faith.



# True and False Disciples

- I. Offense and Rejection
- II. God's sovereign Illumination
- III. True Discipleship

<sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life,** <sup>69</sup> and we have **believed,** and have come to **know,** that you are the Holy One of God.”

**John 6:67–69 ESV**





<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

**Matthew 16:15–16 ESV**



# III. True Discipleship

a. Accepting Jesus' Word





<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you **abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples,

**John 8:31 ESV**



<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and **I ate them,**  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,

**Jeremiah 15:16 ESV**





# III. True Discipleship

- a. Accepting Jesus' Word
- b. Believing in Jesus



<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

**John 5:24 ESV**





<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you **believed** because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed.**”

**John 20:28–29 ESV**



<sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

**2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV**

