

January 17 Going Deeper...

1. How would you define belief and faith? What distinctions, if any, do you make between the two? How do you see the two working together? What is the interplay between belief and faith?
2. In the story tonight (John 4:46-54) Jesus said that, 'unless (you) people see signs and wonders you will never believe.' What do you think he meant by that? What do you think he was getting at? In what ways does that apply to you?
3. What do you think the royal official understood about Jesus as he asked for his help and then as he took him at his word even though Jesus wouldn't go to his home to physically be with his child?
4. Are there any parts of this story that cause you dissonance? If so, which part(s)? What do you think is the underlying cause of the dissonance?
5. Pete Rollins said that 'we are all people with ghosts – people that we loved and lost, people that have hurt us, people that we have hurt and the ghosts are there because we can't let go of them. We want to avoid confrontation with those ghosts...but it's only in confronting those ghosts, only in making our peace with them, only in doing the difficult work of mourning, that we can actually come to new life.' Do you agree with his assessment? Why or why not? How do your ghosts impact the way you believe or trust? Do you think confronting our ghosts has the ability to create pathways of trust and faith? Why or why not?
6. What do you think Pete Enns meant when he said that trust 'isn't an intellectual process, it's an all in process'?
7. How do you work out faith and belief when you are experiencing things that put you outside of the 'core testimony' of the Bible? ie. you pray for something and nothing changes or things get worse.
8. Do you agree with Pete Enns statement that 'trust grows a peaceful life'? How do you experience that in your life? He goes on to suggest that 'learning to trust is learning to let go.' What do you think that means? How can we work at making that a reality in our lives?