



JESUS ON THE ROAD

Struggling Through Doubt is the Heart of Trusting

Week of May 15, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message

Read Matthew 11:1-11

Doubt is a normal part of the Christian life—an inevitable part of broken people living in a very broken world. That is why it's called "The Christian Faith" and not "The Christian Certainty." When we go through a "Dark Night of the Soul" God uses that time to provoke us to ask deep questions, and to grow spiritually and physiologically. When you experience pain in this life, you will sometimes doubt that God sees, or knows, or hears. You might even doubt his existence. Turn that doubt toward Jesus and learn how the truth of scripture helps you through your pain. Life can get hard. But transformation is possible through God's love expressed through the life of Jesus. Lean in to that.

Pray

Jesus, when I doubt remind me to lean into you. Show me the Scriptures I need to feed my weary soul. Shine your light into my life. Bring me out of my darkness of doubt and into your wonderful light and love.

Getting Started

- Have you ever pretended everything was okay when it really wasn't? What made you want to pretend?
- What is your go-to scripture to help you through times of trouble?

Listening Deeply

1. Some people think that struggling with faith means you are a failure. Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Read Matthew 11:7-11. What was Jesus' attitude toward John's doubt?
3. Do you think Jesus' attitude to your doubt is the same, or different? Why?
4. We all have things we struggle with on a deep, deep level. Think of your struggle (you can share it if you feel comfortable enough to); how do these kind of "Dark Nights" provide great opportunities for deep growth?
5. Can we attain spiritual maturity if we never have doubts or trials?
6. If we are to struggle successfully, we must be real about our doubts and stop pretending that everything is okay. How do each of the following actions help us get through our struggles and overcome our doubts:
 - Accepting your struggle as part of the journey
 - Staying in community with God's people and God's promises
 - Making Jesus (and not your pain) the issue

Living Wide in Jesus

Doubt is real for everyone—at least for everyone who is being real. Because we are in the redemption part of our story, there is always room in the process for growth—and for doubt. When that pain or those doubts come, we are tempted to push them aside pretending everything is okay. Instead, ask God your questions. He won't rebuke you. Instead, he will answer you, challenge you, and help you draw nearer to him. What are the deepest questions of your life? Are you brave enough to face them, knowing Jesus is on your side? If you are, here's how to do it successfully:

- Accept your struggle—you are not a failure because of it.
- Stay in community with God's people and his Word—they will keep you on track.
- Make Jesus (and not your pain) the issue—and you will learn to trust Jesus with it.

Use the back of this page to write a letter to Jesus describing your doubts or your pain, and asking him the hard questions you have.