

Doubting God

Dealing with Church Hurt

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness."

Matthew 23:27-28 NLT

Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live...

Titus 1:16 NLT

"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.²²On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'²³But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Matthew 7:21-23 NLT

For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Hebrews 5:13-14 NLT

So the Lord's message spread throughout that region.⁵⁰Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town.

Acts 13:49-50 NLT

So they shook the dust from their feet as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium.⁵²And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:51-52 NLT

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Talk about a time a brand or restaurant let you down. Would you give it a second chance? Why or why not?
- If someone told you they were never eating again because of the bad service at a restaurant, how would you respond to them?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Pastor Lane gave us three possible reasons why Christians sometimes get it wrong: They aren't Christians at all, they are Spiritually immature, they just messed up. What other reasons would you add to this list and why?
- Are there any areas in your life where you're being hypocritical or judgmental? How could embracing God's grace help you have a more loving response?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- In the message Pastor Lane shared that instead getting angry and offended when a Christian fails or hurts us, we should help them be disciplined and grow. Why is that so hard to do?
- Have you been disappointed by church or other Christians? If so, share what you learned from that experience. How can you take a step toward healing?
- Share about a time you let someone else down. What did you learn from that experience? Then, spend time as a Life Group talking about ways you can model Christ's love in your daily lives.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You for Your unlimited grace. Help us receive Your grace and extend it to others, even when we've been hurt or disappointed. Show us if there are any hypocritical or judgmental behaviors we need to change, and guide us as we seek to represent Your love to others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you are holding onto unforgiveness, let it go this week. If possible and appropriate, talk to the person who hurt you and forgive them. If not, write a letter forgiving them; pray over it telling God you forgive them and then destroy the letter symbolizing the end of the hurt.