



deconstructing  
TOGETHER

# Weekend Resources

May 24, 2026

When the Church Lets You Down

Use these questions and resources during your study time or with your group.

**RECAP:** Everyone has questions. Some are big. Some are painful. And many feel safer to carry alone. But what if we could face our doubts—together—without walking away from Jesus? Bring your real questions. Stay connected. Don't walk away alone. Let Jesus meet you in the middle of your wrestling.

## MAIN POINTS

- **Hypocrisy:** Hypocrisy is frustrating because the church openly promotes a high moral standard. But Jesus calls us to actually live out that standard as the "light of the world." True spiritual maturity isn't just knowing more Bible verses; it's looking more like Jesus so that our good deeds point others to God.
- **Politics:** When politics becomes our identity, disagreement feels personal and tribalism takes over, which can create unnecessary barriers for those turning to God. We must ensure our discipleship is louder than our politics, choosing to be quick to listen and slow to anger rather than constantly outraged.
- **Moral Failure:** High-profile failures damage trust, but we shouldn't judge the power of Christianity on a single "frozen snapshot" of a struggling believer. Instead, we must look at the long-term trajectory of heart transformation and fix our eyes on Jesus, not merely the imperfect people trying to follow Him.

## GETTING STARTED

- Have you ever chosen not to participate in something you would have otherwise enjoyed because somebody else in that environment made it miserable for you? How does this same dynamic sometimes play out in how people relate to the church?

## SCRIPTURE

- [Matthew 5:14-16; 28:19; Acts 15:19; Hebrews 12:1-3; James 1:19](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In Acts 15, the early church leaders concluded they should "not make it difficult for those who are turning to God." How do issues like hypocrisy and political tribalism create unnecessary barriers for people exploring faith?
- Read Matthew 5:14-16. Why is a Christian's lived example (their "good deeds") often more powerful than simply proclaiming what they believe with their words?
- When high-profile Christian leaders experience moral failure, it can deeply damage trust. According to Hebrews 12:1-3, how does fixing our eyes on Jesus help protect our faith from being destroyed by the failures of others?

## APPLICATION

- Identify one area where your actions or reactions (especially online or in political conversations) might be creating a barrier for someone else to see Jesus. Choose to practice being "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry" this week.
- If you have been hurt or disappointed by the church, bring that specifically to God in prayer. Ask Him to help you separate the brokenness of people from the perfection of Jesus so you do not "throw the baby out with the bathwater."
- Instead of judging people based on a single "snapshot" of their current struggles, look for the trajectory of how God is transforming them. Find an opportunity this week to encourage someone who is slowly growing in their faith.