

Hillside Church of Marin - Small Group Discussion Guide

"Working Through Doubt"; from [Mark 9:14-29](#); on 05/05/24

Main Point: Everyone experiences doubt - there is something beautiful to be found when we remove distractions and focus on tending to (reflecting on) our questions and doubts.

Getting Started

I. What jumped out to you about this week's talk? Why?

Read [Mark 9:14-29](#)

Discuss:

2. What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage? Why?
3. Look at v19. How would you describe Jesus' "mood?" What about this exchange surprises you? Explain.
4. In v20, we are told that "when the spirit saw Jesus" it responded, how and why?
5. What in the father's statement in v22 reflects doubt? How did Jesus respond? Why is this important and how is the father's response to Jesus helpful to our own times of doubt?
6. V25-29, Read this portion out loud again. What role did the boy have in his own healing? Why is this important to each of us? Why did the spirit respond to Jesus' command this way? Who has done all the heavy lifting in the healing of this boy? Is this encouraging to you? Why? Why not?

Read [John 20:24-29](#)

Discuss:

7. Think of a time that you have had doubt around your faith? How did the wait or tending actually strengthen your faith? One or two can share their time of doubt.
8. Joey shared a quote from A.J. Swoboda. Read through this and discuss why patient reflection is necessary. "Our obsession with the quick fix and immediate response does not permit us to ask the big questions over a long period of time. Patience reflection is gone. Rather than going deep, we go wide...Risking patience means looking longer and deeper."

Application

9. Our questions and doubts are not bigger than Jesus! Is there one faith question or doubt you have that you need to enter patient reflection on and go deep instead of wide? Are you willing to go there? Share with the group as you are comfortable so the group can be praying for you.
(Avoid gossip and naming names)
10. How can we tend" to someone who is questioning and doubting matters of faith and belief?

Prayer

Pray for each other, for the things mentioned today in the conversation.