

# Community Group Discussion Guide

## Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

**Note:** Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

**Series Title:** Dealing with Doubt

**Main Idea:** Anyone who has ever honestly tried to follow Jesus has experienced moments and seasons of doubt. Maybe it was an unanswered prayer or a surprise diagnosis. Maybe it was a difficult passage of scripture or just a difficult stretch of life. We all have them—but how should we handle them?

## Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

**Note:** Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

**Message Title:** God Can Handle Your Doubts

**Main Text:** Matthew 14:28-31

### Message Outline:

Over and over in scripture we see Jesus have grace for those who we're doubting. If that was his response, shouldn't it be ours as well?

- Peter doubted, and Jesus rescued him. (Matthew 14:31)
- Thomas doubted, and Jesus gave him proof. (John 20:27)
- Disciples doubted, and Jesus sent them anyway. (Matthew 28:17-19)

## Community Group Discussion Guide

- John the Baptist doubted, and Jesus reassured him.  
(Matthew 11:4-5)
- Martha doubted, and Jesus reminded her of His power. (John 11:21-25)
- The father of the demon-possessed boy doubted, and Jesus strengthened his faith. (Mark 9:24-25)

When Peter doubts, Jesus asks him a question—“Why did you doubt?”

*What if this question was an invitation to Peter not an accusation of Peter? **Instead of pushing Peter away when he doubted, Jesus pulled him close.***

### **What is deconstruction?**

Deconstruction is a sincere examination of your beliefs, letting go of what’s untrue to build on what is true.

Deconstruction done well, can be deeply forming. There are real hints of deconstruction in Jesus’ sermon on the mount—“You have heard it said, but I say to you...”. There was something people thought was true, Jesus deconstructs it, and then builds upon what is true.

### **Everyone reads the bible with a bias.**

- Everything you believe about God may not be true.
- When you discover something that you believed isn’t true, unbelieve what isn’t true and pursue what is true.

# Community Group Discussion Guide

## Step 03: Lead group discussion.

**Note:** Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

### Specific to this week's message:

1. Are you more likely to read Jesus' question to Peter as an invitation or an accusation? What truths about Jesus character help you shape your perspective?
2. Talk about how you typically navigate questions and doubts in your faith.
3. How have previous doubts led to greater faith in your life or in the lives of others?
4. What is your experience with the word "deconstruction". Have you seen it done well? Poorly?
5. Share about any beliefs you are currently questioning or have questioned in the past.
6. How do you identify what is true and untrue?

### General questions:

7. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
8. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
9. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
10. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?