

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: The Benefit of Doubt

Main Text: John 20:24-28

Supporting Texts: Genesis 17:17, 18:12; Exodus 16:2-3; Judges 6:36-40; Matthew 1:2-3; Matthew 28:16-17

Message Outline:

At some point, we've all questioned what we believe. But doubt isn't a dead end. Confronting our deepest questions can actually lead us closer to Jesus.

The Bible is full of people who doubted.

- Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:17, 18:12)
- Israelites (Exodus 16:2-3)
- Gideon (Judges 6:36-40)
- John the Baptist (Matthew 1:2-3)

Community Group Discussion Guide

- Even some that saw the resurrected Jesus (Matthew 28:16-17)

It is easy to feel like doubt is the enemy of faith, but in reality it is often the pathway to a deeper, more meaningful faith. For this reason, the church should be one of the safest places to wrestle with and confront your doubts.

3 Reasons Why We Doubt:

1. You have questions you can't answer
2. You face situations that seem unfair
3. You experience pain you can't resolve.

When you doubt, it's not a time to panic—it's a time to process (and pray).

Even though Thomas doubted, Jesus was not offended and did not rebuke him. Instead, he drew close because he wanted him to believe—and he did.

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. Have you had moments or seasons where you have wrestled with doubt? What caused your doubts?
2. When you've doubted, where did you turn?

Community Group Discussion Guide

3. What did you notice about Jesus' response to Thomas' curiosity?
4. Have you found Jesus to be close when you've doubted?
5. What has been your experience in telling other Christians about your doubts? Helpful? Hurtful?
6. Is there anything you're doubting currently? How can our group pray for you or support you in this season?

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?