

Oakley Campus | Week at a Glance | 2/11-2/17

Sunday Service Times: 8:40, 9:50, and 11:00 AM
or online at laurelridge.online.church

Sundays, Nursery/Preschool: 8:40, 9:50, and 11:00 AM

Sundays, Kids (K-6th) Services: 8:40, 9:50, and 11:00 AM
Streaming online at 9:50 AM: "Ridge Kids" on YouTube

THE RIDGE Community Group: 9:50 and 11am
(7-8th grades, 9-12th grades)

Tuesdays, Celebrate Recovery: 6 PM, Oakley Campus

Wednesdays, Kids (K-4th) and Preteen (5th-6th) Adventure
6:15-8 PM

Wednesdays, THE RIDGE (MS and HS): 6:15-8 PM
(7-8th grades, 9-12th grades)

Thursdays, Prayer Team: 5:30 PM, Conference Room

Thursdays, Grief Share: 7PM, Room 301

**For all Nursery-12th Grade programs, contact brandon@laurelridgechurch.org

Bethel Island Campus | Week at a Glance

Sunday Service Times: 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study: 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

For other opportunities and Community Group info, visit laurelridgechurch.org

*Register at laurelridgechurch.org/register

Oakley Campus Planner

2/11: Contribution statements available
<https://laurelridgechurch.org/giving-statement>

2/14: Winter Camp Balance Due, Gr 7-12

2/15-5/9: Grief Share, 7pm, Rm 301

2/18: Baptism Sunday, 11am

2/19: President's Day, office closed

2/20: Boomers, BYO lunch and a Movie, 11:30am

*2/23-25: Winter Camp, Gr 7-12, Deposit Past Due

2/25: No 7-12 Grade Sunday Community Groups

2/26: Mommy Meet Up, 9-11:30am, Gym

2/28: Mission Trip Meeting, Gr 7-12, 5:15 or 8pm.
Balance Due

3/10: Daylight Savings Time, Spring forward

*3/22-25: Mission Trip, Gr 7-12

3/31: Easter Service Times: 8am, 9:15am, 10:30am,
and 11:45am

4/16: Worship Night, 7-8pm

*6/23-28: Summer Camp, Gr 2-6

*7/8-13: Summer Camp, Gr 7-12



TUG OF WAR
Faith and Doubt
February 11, 2024

Mark 9:2-5 - After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here..."

In these moments, God is real, Jesus feels close, and faith is so reasonable and makes sense.

Doubt is not the opposite of faith. Actually, the opposite of faith is unbelief. Doubting is to be indecisive or ambivalent over an issue. It's to be hung up between certainties and uncertainties - up in the air over a particular issue.

Mark 9:17 - A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I **brought** you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

brought: krateo (krat-eh'-o); use strength, to carry, seize or retain.

Mark 9:18-19 - Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. **I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.**"¹⁹ "**O unbelieving generation,**" Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you?"

Mark 9:21-22 - Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered.²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. **But if** you can do anything, take pity on us and **help us.**"

THREE COMMON REASONS FOR DOUBT:

1. GOD DOESN'T _____ WHAT WE _____ DO.
2. WE'VE TRIED _____ THAT DIDN'T WORK.
3. MANY PEOPLE AROUND US EXPRESS _____.

DILUTED, POLLUTED, PARTIAL, FALTERING FAITH

Mark 9:22-24 - ... But **if you can** do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³"**If you can?**" said Jesus. "**Everything is possible for him who believes.**" ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father **exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"**

exclaimed: krazo (krad'-zo); to "croak" (as a raven) or **scream**, to call aloud, to shriek.

unbelief: apistos (ap'-is-tos); actively disbelieving, a passively **untrusting** person.

This is how you increase your faith:

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. NKJV

In our doubt, we don't stop there. We add in... " _____ "

- 1) _____ WE ARE HONEST ABOUT OUR _____ STRUGGLES.

Mark 9:24 - "**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**"

- 2) _____ WE _____ UPON THE FAITH WE HAVE.

James 2:26 - As the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without deeds is dead.**

This one I am adding in.

3) _____ WE _____ A COMMUNITY GROUP
TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH.

Luke 7:22 - So he replied to the **messengers**, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

In the book The Gift of Doubt, Gary Parker says, "If faith never encounters doubt, if truth never struggles with error, if good never battles with evil, how can faith know its own power? In my own pilgrimage, if I have to choose between a faith that has stared doubt in the eye and made it blink, or a naïve faith that has never known the firing line of faith, I will choose the former every time."

Big idea: When it comes to the tension between faith and doubt, the most important word is "_____."

Wi-Fi password: lrccquest

Five Easy Ways to Give:

1. In Person: Place your offering in an offering box at either exit.
2. Our App: Search for "Laurel Ridge Community Church" on iOS and Android.
3. Online: laurelridgechurch.org/give
4. Bill Pay: Setup LRCC on your bank's Bill Pay.
5. Mail a check to the church: 2459 Laurel Road, Oakley, CA 94561

Questions? Call 925-625-9500