

LEADER REMINDERS

- In his lesson, Pastor Scott references a book titled “More Than A Carpenter” by Josh McDowell. Copies of this book are available at the Leader Resource Table if a student should want a complimentary copy.
- Recharge early bird price of \$125/student ends at midnight THIS THURSDAY, 12/15; price increases to \$150 on 12/16.
- Reminder to students & leaders who serve on a CCC 4th week Sunday serving team:
 - Recharge falls on a 4th Sunday...be sure you are finding a replacement for your serving role.



12.7.22 & 12.14.22 LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Without A Doubt (Luke 7:18-23)

Summary:

Tonight, we are covering Luke 7:18-23 where John the Baptist is in prison and is visited by some of his disciples who report about Jesus' earthly ministry. We'll look at how John, someone who devoted his life to paving the way for Jesus' arrival, ended up doubting if Jesus was who he said he was. By looking at John's example, we'll first look at some of the main drivers of doubt in our lives and then contrast them with how we can respond to our doubts to avoid letting them turn into unbelief.

Questions:

1. Ask students if they think doubt is a bad thing? Ask for an example of when doubt could be a good thing?
 - Honest doubt isn't a bad starting point - It's a bad ENDING point
 - It's how we respond to doubt that matters. Healthy doubt can motivate us to seek God for answers. When we seek God for help with our doubts and depend on Him instead of earthly answers, we grow closer to Him.
2. Leaders, consider sharing a personal example of a doubt that you've had when it comes to your own faith.
3. Ask students to share an example of something that makes them doubt God? (Give time for each student to answer).
 - Pick one of the answers (if there is a similar theme from multiple students use that theme)
 - Walk through the three ways to respond to doubt covered in the lesson.
 - Help students understand how to apply those ways to the specific area of doubt you're focusing on.
 - Take Your Doubts to Jesus – Pray and read the Bible – for specific verses on Doubt, text “DOUBT” to 920.717.1715

- Surrender Your Expectations of Jesus – Jesus doesn't 'owe us' anything. To God our spiritual condition is always more important than our physical condition. While we may doubt why circumstances are what they are, we can trust that God cares a ton about drawing us closer to Him and He will use every situation to do that if we allow Him to.
 - Put Your Faith in Jesus – Ultimately, we all have a choice on whether to trust the Bible and to trust that obeying God is the best option for our lives. That's what faith is... being confident in something we hope for but cannot see.
 - Leaders, on this final point, there is a clear tie into the gospel. You may consider leaning into a statement such as... 'it's hard to have faith in someone you don't know'... and tie that into every person's need to put their faith in Jesus to save them from their sin penalty.
 - Offer for anyone who doesn't know what a personal relationship with Jesus is to PLEASE connect with one of your leaders outside of group time.
 - If the Holy Spirit is leading you to share the gospel, DO IT!
 - Might be an opportunity for you to share a brief personal testimony of when you came to realize you needed Jesus to save you.
4. Ask students what the danger is in letting doubt become unbelief. Tie answers into the importance of not dealing with doubt in isolation and the need to talk about it. Don't feel guilty or unholy if you have doubts.
5. If the topic of apologetics (how do we know we can trust the bible) comes up, there are a couple additional resources listed that you could point students to investigate on their own time.
- Book, 'More than a Carpenter' by Josh McDowell – Written by a former skeptic of Christianity, a good book for those who doubt Jesus' deity and purpose. (Copies will be available for students)
 - A sermon from Christ's Church of the Valley on trusting the bible in today's world – lays out facts and evidence that supports its accuracy.
<https://ccv.church/watch/message?MessageId=9039>