

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, February 5th, 2017

Obstacles to Movement: Doubt (John 20:19-31)

Sermon Recap: Rich gave a message on the doubts we have from time to time but are so afraid to do anything with. He said on the other side of doubt is greater life *if* we will walk through doubt in community, with curiosity, and without conditions. The world sees doubt as weakness, but Biblically, doubt should drive us to new life and greater purpose in the family of God.

1. Have you ever had doubts about God? Did you feel like you could talk about them or were you discouraged?
2. John has captured 22 days of Jesus' life on earth and decided to include the story of Thomas' doubt. What do you think this means?
3. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubt?
4. Read Luke 11:10-13, James 1:5-8, and Proverbs 2:1-15. What is consistent through all the passages? How does God seem to feel about those with doubts/questions?
5. Read the end of Psalm 73. As McKinley said in the video, doubts have to be dealt with in the sanctuary of God, not in our own understanding. We often feel the discouragement of external sin (or our own actions/thoughts) that lead to doubt, but what does God do when we take our doubts to him?
6. As you look around, are you seeking hard after God to deal with your questions? How can you seek hard after him?
7. Are you placing conditions on your faith or limiting God to your own set of guidelines?
8. What does it mean for Thomas to shout, "my Lord and my God!?" What needs to happen for you to move to that place in your life?
9. Thomas is not shunned in his questioning, but rather embraced, how can we embrace doubt in our families and community?