

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

This is Us: Doubt



Opening

1. Share about your BLESS rhythms for this week.
2. Think back over your faith journey. What have been some of the big questions you've wrestled with?
3. Why do you think doubt is so prevalent in Canadian society?

Going Deeper

Read Luke 7:18-23

1. Dave mentioned that the Scriptures are full of stories about doubt. Can you think of some of these stories? Why do you think they were included in the Bible?
2. What stands out to you in the story about John the baptism?
3. Commentators note that part of John's doubt is that Jesus doesn't line up with his expectations for a Messiah.
 - a. What do you think his expectations were? How weren't they met?
 - b. Do you think that this is still true for Christians today? If so, how?
4. What do you make of Jesus' statement in verse 23?

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Read John 20:24-29

5. People often view Thomas in a negative light because of his doubt. What is commendable about Thomas in this story? Can you relate to him?
6. What do we learn about the character of Jesus in this story?
7. Listen to one writer's reflection on this story: *Not everyone is like Peter, ready to jump in with both feet without careful consideration of the situation and contingencies. Jesus could have refused to provide Thomas the assurances that he was seeking, but instead graciously chose to allay his doubts knowing what Thomas needed.*
 - a. Have you ever had a "Thomas experience" where God revealed himself in a personal way?
8. How can doubt be a gift? When can doubt become destructive?
9. Why is church community so important in seasons of doubt?
10. Are there any ways where you sense God speaking to you through these passages?

Close in Prayer. We encourage you to take time to pray through your doubts.

BLESS Rhythms Summary:

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

EAT: This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/ inviting into your home?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*