

wrestling with
doubt,
finding
faith

**SMALL GROUP
STUDY GUIDE**

Week 1 January 7, 2023

“Doubt and the Existence of God”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for this group of believers that You have brought together in this very moment so that we may grow with one another as we learn about You. We invite You to come and fill us with Your spirit of love as we encourage and inspire one another to remain in the kingdom work You have called us to do. Help us to be Your vessels of truth, love, and mercy as we work together, as one, in the Body of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Mark 9:22-24 (NIV)

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.”

²³ “‘If you can?’” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**”

Psalms 19:1 (NIV)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalms 8:1 (NIV)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

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INTRODUCTION

For many people, seeing is believing. But if that's your criteria for believing, it may be a stumbling block to belief in God. Faith does not mean never having doubts. Doubt is normal and it can be a pathway to a deeper faith by leading us to examine what we believe and why. But at some point you will need to take a leap of faith to believe in the existence of God, because no one can prove God's existence. So what reasons are there to believe in God?

There are many reasons to believe in the existence of God, Pastor Eric shared three of those during this week's message:

- 1) The beauty and rational order of creation.
- 2) The experience of God in my life.
- 3) The impact of faith on people.

QUESTIONS

1. Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year? If so, would you like to share any with the group? If you did not make any, why not?
2. Do you think doubt can be a positive thing at times? Give an example.
3. Have you ever struggled with doubt when it comes to your faith? What specifically have you doubted?
4. If you believe in the existence of God, why do you believe that there is a God?
5. In Methodism there has always been a four-fold way of deciding what we should believe and why: scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. What do you think about this approach? Discuss.

FINAL APPLICATION

Write down some of the reasons you believe God exists.