

WHEN LIFE HAPPENS

SERMON SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 September 14, 2025
"When in Doubt"



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we gather in Your presence today with open hearts and searching minds. You know our questions, our struggles, and even our doubts. Remind us that doubt is not a sign of weakness, but often a step on the journey of faith - a place where You meet us with patience, grace, and truth. As we open Your Word together, give us courage to be honest, wisdom to listen deeply, and trust to believe that You are big enough to hold both our faith and our questions. May this time draw us closer to You and to one another; and may our doubts become doors that lead us into deeper trust in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 11:2-6 (NIV)

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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INTRODUCTION

We are all tempted to jump to conclusions about God based upon our circumstances. When we go through difficult seasons, we begin to believe that God doesn't care about us, God isn't present or maybe God doesn't even exist. It's during these seasons that it is tempting to walk away from faith. If you are going through one of those seasons now, Jesus has a message for you.

After John the Baptist was arrested, he began to doubt that Jesus really was who he thought he was. Jesus had actually gone in the opposite direction of John and further away from him in his time of need. Jesus' message to John is his message to us: “blessed is the person who doesn't lose faith because I don't act like they thought I would.” Like John, it is okay for us to doubt. Doubt doesn't have to be an off-ramp to faith. In fact, it's a natural part of the journey.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways people jump to conclusions about God based on their circumstances, either positively or negatively?
2. Have you ever been disappointed with God? Can you relate to the feeling of God seeming distant or absent during challenging times in your life? If so, in what season(s)?
3. When you think about the people whose faith inspires you, who comes to mind? Which category does their story fall under: easy life or hard life?
4. Why are stories of faith in spite of hardship so inspiring? Why don't we assume their faith was misplaced?
5. What would you tell a friend who has trouble believing in God based on their circumstances? Do you tell yourself and believe the same thing you would tell your friend?

FINAL APPLICATION

A reminder from last time to memorize Hebrews 4:16:

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us in our time of need.*