

Life Group Notes

Can I be a Christian and still have doubts?

Read: Gen.16; Luke 7:18-28; Mark 4:35-41; 9:14-29; Matthew 14:22-35.

1. Share spectacular examples of doubt from the pages of Scripture. Do any speak especially to you?
2. What kind of doubts do you wrestle with? Are they fuelled by a motivation to believe or not to believe? If so, can you pinpoint why you're reluctant not to believe? In which way can intellectual doubt be a smokescreen?
3. How has your picture of God been affected by the family in which you grew up, or the church which you attended as a child? Did you grow up with a biblically accurate view of God?
4. Why is it unhelpful and unhealthy for Christians to pretend that they never have any questions or doubts?
5. Gary Parker in his book, *The Gift of Doubt* writes, "If faith never encounters doubt, if truth never struggles with error, if good never battles with evil, how can faith know its own power? In my own pilgrimage, I have to choose between a faith that has stared doubt in the eye and made it blink, or a naïve faith that has never known the firing line of doubt, I will choose the former every time." Why is wrestling with doubt ultimately a helpful thing? What doubts have you experienced that ultimately made you stronger as a Christian?