



“God With Us In Our Doubts”

December 1-2, 2018

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INTRODUCTION

Christmas is often full of many wonderful things: joy, family time, celebration and fellowship. Yet Christmas is also a season where people experience deep struggles as well. We wrestle with issues like doubts, anxiety, fears and failures. Yet through it all, the miracle, the message, and the encouragement of Christmas is that **GOD IS WITH US.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share about a season of significant doubt in your life. Were your doubts in the **realm of “Is it worth it?” or “Is it true?”** Or a combination of both?
2. **Read John 20:24-31.** Where do you wrestle with doubt nowadays? What is your current approach to dealing with your doubts if/when they arise?
 - a. **Based on the “Big Idea” of this message, what do you think God wants us to do with our honest doubts?**
3. Do you ever feel like doubt is a deal-breaker to God? Or do you know of someone who feels this way? Explain.
4. **Put yourself “in the sandals” of the disciples AFTER the crucifixion, and BEFORE the resurrection.** What doubts or disappointments might you have experienced? What hopes might be crushed?
5. **“Doubts are opportunities to develop our faith.” How do you think this works in real life?** Do you have any personal experience with this?
6. The scriptures teach that doubts often lead us to decisions. In the stories of Mary (Luke 1:26-38) and Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25), Peter in Matthew 14 (when he walked on water, then sank when he started to doubt), and Thomas (just to name a few☺)...**doubts led them to decisions to believe and trust in God.** Share an example of where you have seen this in your life or the life of someone you know, and what happened as a result of the decision.
7. **“You will never know what blessings could flow if you allow doubt to take you out.”**
 - a. Have you ever missed out on a blessing in life because you allowed your doubt to take you out?

- b. Have you ever experienced blessing because you brought your doubts to **God, and he led you toward belief...**which led to experiencing blessing? (An **illustration from Tyler's message was the doubts that he and Bridget** experienced 6 months into their dating relationship. Ultimately, those honest doubts led to deeper trust in God, and experiencing the blessings of marriage, life together, and their family.)
8. What is the most encouraging part of this lesson (that God is WITH US in our doubts) for YOU?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:3

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer. Commit to praying for one another throughout the week.