



Aurora Student Ministry Discussion Guide for Sunday March 15, 2020

We're in the second week of a series on DOUBT and this week's focus is: God doesn't shame us for our questions. We'll start with a few discussion questions, then explore some text from the Bible.

Start off with these discussion questions:

1. Have you ever needed to prove something to someone? How did it go?
2. Have you ever asked someone to prove something to you? What happened?
3. What's one situation where you'd want to see evidence before making a decision or judgement?
4. What's one situation where you'd be willing to believe something without seeing all the evidence?

Then, read this aloud:

Some people talk about faith in God as if "faith" means "blind trust." But having faith in God doesn't mean we can't also have evidence that supports what we believe. In fact, God likes it when we ask Him questions! He doesn't get angry at us for having little faith. Instead, He is understanding and offers us His grace. Our faith in God is built on trusting Him as the one who *answers* our questions.

Read John 20:24-29, which takes place after Jesus' resurrection:

"One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'

But he replied, 'I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.'

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!'

'My Lord and my God!' Thomas exclaimed.

Then Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.'

Discuss again:

1. Did Jesus get angry at Thomas for not having more faith? Did he shame or punish Thomas?
2. Did Jesus do what Thomas asked? (Yes! He showed His scars and let Thomas touch them.)
3. How do you think you would have reacted if you were Thomas?
4. Have you ever felt like Thomas, unable to fully believe in Jesus even though other people are totally convinced?

5. How does it make you feel to hear that God doesn't shame or punish us for asking for evidence before we believe?
6. What is one way our conversation today is going to change the way you see your doubts?

Pray as a family:

Thank God for his kindness, gentleness, and patience.

Thank God for creating us with spirits of curiosity.

Thank God for not asking us to believe blindly, but giving us the evidence we need to know Him.

Ask for help to continue learning more about Him and the evidence He's given us for who He is.