

I DOUBT IT – LIFE Group Study Guide

Pastor Miles McPherson – April 10, 2016



Over the next six weeks, we'll examine this area of our doubts. Truth be told, everyone who believes in God wrestles with doubts to one degree or another! We invite you to go on a journey with us, being open to face those areas that we question God or the Bible. May the Lord draw you closer to himself during this exploration, and may he bring truth and answers to the questions that you're asking.

In the coming weeks, we'll explore questions like, "Can I trust the Bible?"; "If God is loving and good, why is there so much pain and suffering?"; "What about other religions?"; "Doesn't science present a strong case that God doesn't exist?"; and more!

Send your tough questions to Pastor Miles! Text "Questions" to 52525

Opening Discussion:

1. Share about a time when a friend told you something so amazing you initially didn't believe it and then you found out it was true...

In a similar way, some or many of the things we hear about God and Christianity seem amazing or strange and we have a hard time believing them. Maybe you've heard or think that having doubts is incompatible with being a follower of Jesus.

Look at the following biblical definition of the word "doubt":

Doubt [diakrino] = to separate, distinguish, judge or evaluate. A process of evaluating and judging competing ideas, convictions, ambitions and commitments.

2. In light of that definition, what good can come out of having doubts about God, faith or the Bible?



Bible Study:

A number of people in the Bible demonstrated doubt toward God and his word, yet God was patient with them and still chose to use them to fulfill his purposes. Moses argued with God at the burning bush and even asked God to send someone else. But look what God did through Moses in delivering the Israelites out of Egypt! Today we're going to look at another well-known Old Testament character that doubted God

→ Read Judges 6:1-10

3. What are the key parts of this story? Who are the key players?

→ Read Judges 6:11-24

4. Why was Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress?

5. What irony do you find in verses 11-12?

6. What doubts does Gideon express in this passage? About God? About himself?

7. How does Gideon test God?

→ Read Judges 6:36-40

8. How does God respond to Gideon's doubts and testings?

If time allows, read Judges 7 and discuss the story of how God fulfilled the promise to deliver Israel through Gideon's leadership.

Apply it to Your Life:

It seems that God wasn't fazed by Gideon's doubts. He demonstrated supernatural power and responded to Gideon's tests without rebuking him. God can handle your doubts! As you bring your doubts to God and to your LIFE Group, wrestling through your questions may help bring clarity and cause you to grow in faith.

9. What is the biggest doubt (or question) about God and faith that you are wrestling with right now?

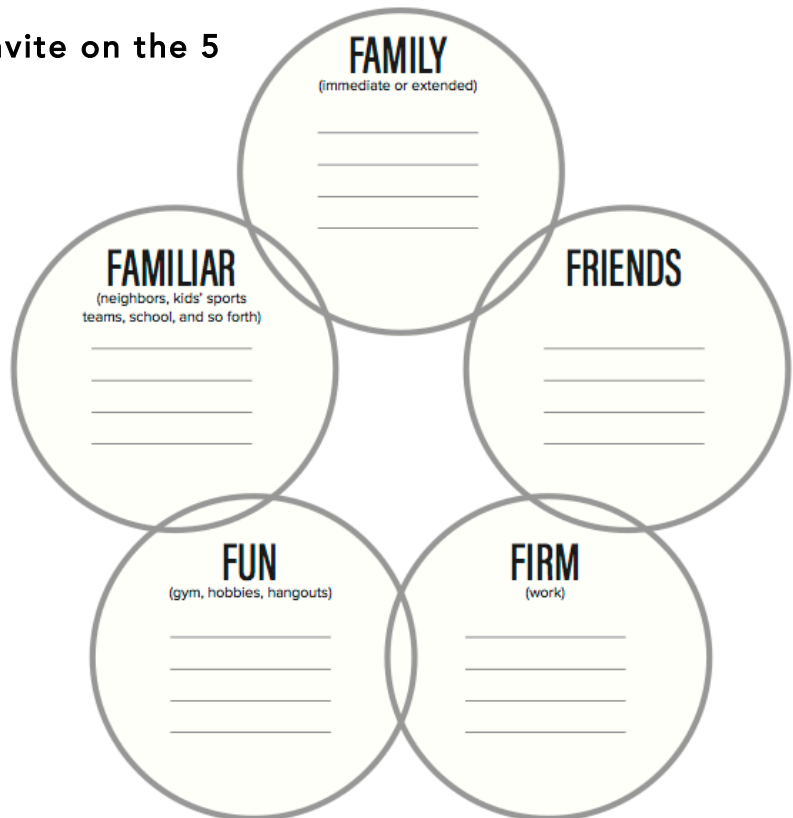
10. What steps will you take to begin exploring that area of doubt?

Next Steps:

BR1NG: Invite your friends to join you this Sunday at one of the Rock campuses for “I DOUBT IT,” and then invite them to join you at your LIFE Group next week!

Brainstorm those you could invite on the 5 Circles diagram:

- When you're at the Rock this week, introduce yourself to people around you and ask them if they're in a LIFE Group. If not, invite them to join your LIFE Group! **Goal:** meet 5 new people every week!



Take it Home:

→ Read Judges 6:25-35

- What are the key people, places, action, and drama in this story?
- Why did God ask Gideon to tear down the “Asherah Pole” and altar before sending him on the mission to defeat Midian?
- How did this story turn out?

→ **Read Judges 7** to discover how God fulfilled his promise to use Gideon to defeat the Midianites

Make a list of doubts that you have and begin talking to God about those doubts in the coming week.

LIFE Group Leader Tip of the Week:

- Make sure to take your group through the “Next Steps” portion of the study. This week’s application will help them reach out to others and invite them into the journey of exploring doubts.
- Facilitate discussions, either in group time or one-on-one with group members that will help them move one step in their spiritual journey during the I Doubt It series. Here are some possible next steps people could take:
 1. Trusting in Jesus as their Savior
 2. Begin attending Sunday services
 3. Get baptized (for more info, go to sdrock.com/baptism)
 4. Engage in Bible reading and prayer
 5. Attend the LIFE Class
 6. Begin serving
 7. Help others go through the One Step process

