

JOURNEY

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 8.3: DOUBT

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 11:1-19

SUMMARY:

John the Baptist's responsibility was to prepare the way for the Messiah. In Matthew 11, John sends his followers to ask Jesus if He really is the Messiah or if the people should expect someone else. This week we look at why John doubts that Jesus is the Messiah.

It's unfortunate, but many of us have been taught that it is wrong to doubt or raise difficult questions. Everyone has doubts about God's goodness or existence from time to time, especially when facing difficult circumstances.

Church needs to be a place where people can share their doubts openly and honestly and get answers to difficult questions.

Students may have doubts, even many doubts. And that's fine. But don't let doubts consume them. Engage them. Help your students seek answers. However, understand that there are some questions that won't be answered this side of eternity. But that shouldn't stop us from trusting that God knows best.

CORE VERSES

Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

Matthew 11:4-5

CORE CONCEPTS

Doubt can serve as an opportunity to discover truth more deeply and trust God more fully.

DOUBT:

Uncertainty or lack of confidence

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- What doubts do you have?
- What do you know about God with complete confidence?
- How do doubts affect your faith or confidence in God?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?