

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Deconstruction: A Doubter's Journey

Week 2: Cling to the Truth

John 20

March 12, 2023

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Almost 2,000 years ago, a man who struggled to believe that Jesus was who He said He was walked into an empty tomb, where he saw the evidence he needed to keep his faith. In the days and years after that, this man, Peter, would be tested, beaten, and eventually killed for refusing to deny what he saw and knew was true. Surely there were unimaginable challenges he faced, but he clung to the truth — and we can, too.

Kicking It Off:

Jeff discussed how his great grandfather had gone all-in on the coal business, right before it faded in popularity. In honor of that, what's the most embarrassing style or fashion trend you used to rock?

Discussion:

1. Jeff shared how God designed the world so “people had to wrestle with doubt. They had to build faith. God wants us on the doubter's journey.” What's your take on this concept? Do you agree or disagree, and why?
2. What do you think it looks like to wrestle with doubt in a way that's healthy *and* helpful? What are some key components to create a **place where doubt is welcome**, based both on what you learned this week or from your own personal journey?
3. What did Peter do when he heard the news about the empty tomb, according to John 20:6-7? What was the significance of the burial cloths being left there? How do you think **facing doubt builds faith**?

“Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.”

4. Jeff explained how one key to his renewed faith was discovering that **the truth is out there**. What were some key questions that God answered for you in your faith journey? What questions or doubts still remain for you to fully believe in Jesus?
5. How does this truth bring you comfort: **“Every journey is unique”** ...? (Which we see in John's story, according to John 20:8.) How does that challenge you?

“Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.”

Wrapping Up:

Read Jeremiah 29:13, and ask God to reveal Himself to each member of your group in a new and fresh way this week. As you wrestle with very real doubts, pray that your group remains a safe place to do so.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”