



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

### April 1, 2023

## Having doubts about your faith

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### Links

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### Foster Care Teens

#### Personal Care Items

We are still collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

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**This Week's Bible Verse**

**Proverbs 14:12**

### Sunday



### Having doubts about your faith

Last Sunday, we talked about when we have doubts about our faith. We remembered that the enemy uses lies to cause us to doubt God and to cause others to doubt us but is it okay with God if we have doubts about our faith?

The entire Christian belief system is centered on faith yet many Christians still seem to struggle with feelings of doubt about their faith.

We first identified that doubt is not the opposite of faith but merely to be uncertain or to have questions about something. Therefore, it is possible to have a strong faith and yet have some doubts about it. But, we do have to be careful that our doubt does not lead us to unbelief (the true opposite of faith).

We said that doubt is not necessarily bad in itself. It's all about how **WE choose** to respond to our doubt. We talked about situations when doubt could be a good thing such as when seeing or hearing things in the media or from gossiping friends.

We said that doubt should cause us to seek the truth

<sup>12</sup> There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

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about whatever it is that we have doubts about. We mentioned that there are many people throughout the Bible who struggled with doubt regarding their faith. Sometimes it ended well and other times, not so much. We looked at a couple of examples.

First, we talked about probably the most famous "doubter" of all, the Disciple Thomas, in **John 20:24-29**. When the other Disciples told Thomas they had seen Jesus alive, he would not believe that Jesus was resurrected until he saw it for himself. This was much like the other Disciples not believing Mary until they also saw Jesus for themselves.

We said this was an example of doubting and then seeking the truth from the source, Jesus. Of course Jesus turned the whole thing into an important lesson about how strong their faith needs to be in order to teach others who have not seen for themselves.

Jesus was not angry at the Disciples for having doubts but was instead teaching them how powerful faith without doubt is. This is the power they would need to teach others to have faith without seeing.

We then looked at a time when doubting didn't turn out so well, in **Genesis 3:1-6**. The very tricky serpent caused Adam and Eve to doubt God's word but rather than seeking the truth from the source, God, they believed the serpent instead. We all know how badly that turned out.

We said that the difference between these two examples was simply how each responded to their doubt. The first sought the truth from the source while the second believed whatever they were presented.

When we have doubts about anything we should always seek the truth by going to the source. Likewise, when we have doubts about our faith, we should always seek the truth by going to God.

Of course, God would rather that we have faith without doubt in order to fully enjoy the amazing life He has for us but He also understands that we will sometimes have doubts. He's really okay with it as long as it causes us to seek the truth in Him.

We explained that this will become especially important for us to remember as we make our way through Jr. High, High School, and eventually College where we will be constantly exposed to people and situations that may cause us to doubt what we believe as Christians.

The important thing to remember is to always seek the truth from the source, even if what is being presented seems to make logical sense to us at the time (remember that the tree in the garden appeared to be good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for wisdom).

We thought about what might have happened if Adam and Eve had said "wait a minute, this doesn't sound like what God said, maybe we should go to Him and ask Him about it."

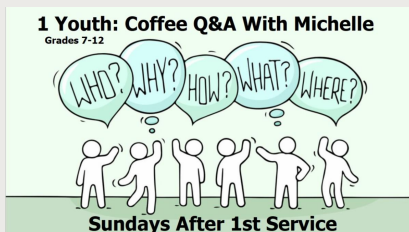
We said to pay attention to the various people in the Bible who had doubts about themselves and about God to see how they chose to respond and to see the results of their choices. Not only that but also how God helped them to overcome their doubts.

We concluded that it's really okay with God if we sometimes have doubts about our faith as long as it causes us to seek the truth in Him.

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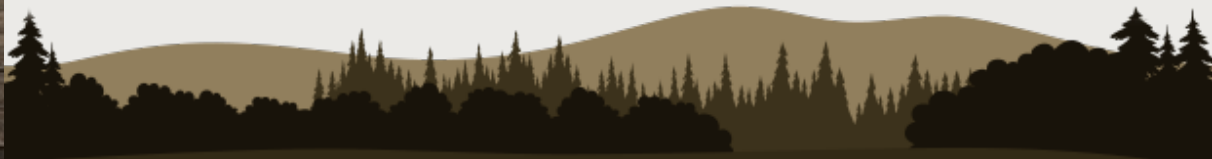
## New Youth Game Room

The games have all been moved, along with some great new ones, into the annex (down the hall past Pastor Jeff's office). Come check it out before or after service!



## Coffee Q&A with Michelle after 1st service **Sunday!**

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, after 1st service, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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