



# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** “I can live faithful to follow Jesus in a world where being a Christian isn’t normal.”

**HEAD CHANGE:** Doubts are not inherently evil.

**HEART CHANGE:** God is not surprised or annoyed by your skepticism.

**LIFE CHANGE:** Our doubts and questions about faith can drive us to a deeper relationship with Christ.

## OVERVIEW

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### Post-Christianity & the Deconstruction of Faith

Chances are that you or someone close to you is struggling with doubt. The reasons are plentiful. Maybe you experienced a sudden loss. Perhaps your views have changed socially or politically and that is reshaping how you understand the Bible, and now you cannot read it without noticing everything that offends you. Maybe you were hurt by the church or by someone you looked to as a spiritual mentor. You immersed yourself in science and now you are filled with piercing questions about its relationship to faith. Perhaps you have grown disillusioned after years of prayers that have been answered with silence. The list could go on and on. At this point, you are typically given two options concerning doubt; 1. Demonize Doubt – in this narrative doubt is labeled as the nemesis to faith. Or, 2. Idolize Doubt – in this narrative it feels so progressive and kind of cool to ridicule what you used to believe and then you wake up to find that you do not believe anything anymore. But there is a third option; 3. An opportunity for authentic and vibrant faith. That is what we are leaning into here.

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

-Romans 12:2 (NLT) -

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stood out to you in this teaching and why?
2. From what we learned in this teaching, what is the difference between doubt and unbelief?
3. Of the five ways we discussed to deal with our doubts, which one resonates the most with you? Why?
4. Often, we begin to doubt God because of a belief system we have been handed that God does not claim to be true about Himself. Which of the five false gods that Jordan discussed did you grow up believing in? How has that shaped the ways you believe or do not believe in God?
5. Have you considered joining Alpha?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Father, thank you for caring for and loving me even when my faith in you wavers. Help us to become a people, a church, that makes Jesus our Lord. We ask for a sweeping renewal of the Holy Spirit in our lives, families, schools, and city. Holy Spirit, would you stir within us a desire to be with you in prayer and help us serve God, one another, and our neighbor in love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**