



Sermon Discussion Guide
Week of 04/23/2017

➤ *Icebreaker*

Tell a restaurant story- a good meal, bad meal, a time when you waited a long time for someone to show up- something awkward- of course 😊.

➤ *Announcements*

Invite someone to our new series "Faith and Doubt."

➤ *Prayer Time*

➤ *Discussion Questions*

What are some examples of things we should doubt and be skeptical about? What happens if we believe everything? What price do we pay for being naïve? What happens when we doubt everything? What price do we pay for cynicism?

Read Mark 9:14-19. What- at this point- was going through the minds of the different people in this story- the 9 disciples; the religious leaders; the crowd; the father and his son? What roles was doubt playing here?

When it comes to faith, how is doubt often viewed? What is the difference between doubt God uses and doubt that debilitates? What role does seeking and being open to new information play in this?

Read Mark 9:20- 27. In what ways are we like the father- a mixture of faith and doubt? How does Jesus respond to the Father's doubt? How does the father respond to his own doubts? What can we learn from his response?

In what way can doubt, ironically, remind us that we do have faith? How is the feeling of God's absence actually a sign of his presence? How do our thoughts about God point to the existence of God? How does the Moltmann quote (below) illuminate this further? Discuss the quote... *"If there were no longing for the "Wholly other," we would come to terms with the here and now and accept the absence of what does not exist."*

What do the following verses say about God's desire to be close to us ... Genesis 1:27-28; 3:8a; Zephaniah 3:17; Job 34:19; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 John 4:9-11?

What problem(s) might Romans 8:35-39 and Psalm 139:1-10 address? Why is important to remind ourselves that God is present in our lives even when we don't sense for feel Him?

➤ *Conversational Prayer: Dear God show me...*