

TALK IT OVER

Doubting God Week 3 - Leaving Christianity

ICEBREAKER (Start talking)

What is the best customer service experience you've ever had?

INTRODUCTION (Start thinking)

One bad experience can outweigh a hundred good one. It's the same with the church. Many are leaving Christianity due to a bad experience with another believer. How should we deal with times that we've encountered bad Christians...

READ (Start sharing)

- Doubt is not the enemy of faith. It is often an invitation to a deeper faith.
- Read *Matthew 14:24-33*.
- What are three things Jesus said? ("Don't be afraid," "I am here," "Why did you doubt?"). What is one thing Jesus did? (Reached out and grabbed Peter).
- What does this tell you about Jesus' response to our doubt?

READ (Start sharing)

- Often what we see in another Christian and what we see in Christ are two different things. When that happens, some people abandon church and can even leave their faith.
- Have you ever been let down by a Christian? (Don't mention their name) How did it make you feel? How did you grow through it?

READ (Start sharing)

- There is a healthy way and a dangerous way to process our doubts.
- Why do you think it's so hard to let go of things we think are true but really are not true?

WHAT WILL YOU DO (Start doing)

Will you commit to let go of what is untrue and hold onto what is true?

PRAYER (Start praying)

Father God, thank You for giving us the truth in Your word. If we are wrong, please correct us. Give us a passion to hold what is true and release what is not. In Jesus' name, amen.

READ GOD'S WORD DAILY using S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

Day 2:

It is written in the Prophets: And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me.

John 6:45 (CSB)

Day 3:

Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.

Romans 14:1 (NLT)

Day 4:

Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. 8 Everyone who asks will receive. Everyone who searches will find. And the door will be opened for everyone who knocks. Matthew 7:7-8 (CEV)

Day 5:

Day after day they studied the Scriptures to see if these things were true.

Acts 17:11 (CEV)