

DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS

WHO NEEDS GOD? – PART 1

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- You can find some on page 6 [here](#).
- What is a non-spiritual “leap of faith” you’ve taken? (i.e. sky dive, rappelling, sushi, etc.)

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- How have you noticed the world getting more religious and less religious at the same time?
- Doubts are beliefs. How was this a new concept to you?
- Read aloud the passage of Jesus dealing with the man who believed, yet had unbelief. See next page. Put yourself in his place. Describe your feelings.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Pastor Mark started with a quote, listed below. What do you think about the statement and why?

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. – A.W. Tozer

- What is something you remember doubting as a child, and your doubts ended up being true?
- If you were a skeptic, what frustrated you the most about talking about your doubts with Christians?
- If you are a believer, why do you think skeptics only focus on the proofs of Christianity, and not the proofs of their beliefs?
- Are you pleased with your reactions and response when a skeptic challenges the reasons for your faith?
- Re-read the passage of Jesus and Thomas. It’s on the next page. What is most surprising to you and why?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father, when I think about You, may it be the real You I am thinking of. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- When you are around a skeptic this week, think about the story they would tell how they came to believe what they believe.

Mark 9:14-27 (NIV)

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

¹⁷ **A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."**

¹⁹ "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered.

²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

²³ "'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

²⁴ **Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"**

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

John 20:24-29 (NIV)

²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."