



Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Would you rather be a master at cooking every type of food or a master at playing every instrument? Why?

1. Take some time as a group to process what you learned by reading "A Note from Author" and Chapter 1 of *The Benefit of Doubt*.
2. How does the idea that God wants your *whole life* differ from how you've viewed your relationship with Him till now? (**Romans 6:13**)
3. Read **Matthew 6:24**, **Luke 9:59-62**, and **Matthew 6:33**. Pastor Tom stated we "can't have two #1 priorities" - we either choose God or ourselves. What excuse(s) have you been using to keep something other than God in first place?
4. Read **Hebrews 12:1**. Pastor Tom shared how letting go of sin and the things that weigh us down leaves more space for God. What are some things you already realize need to go?
5. Pastor Tom said, "the best use of our lives is to invest it in that which will outlast it." How will this help you to **fully** engage for the 50 days of the All Church Spiritual Journey? (**Luke 10:40-42**)
6. Read **2 Corinthians 5:15** and **Romans 12:1**. How would confronting your doubts lead you to live out the challenges in these verses?

## WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read the page, "A Note from the Author" and Chapter 1 (pages IX-20) of *The Benefit Of Doubt*.

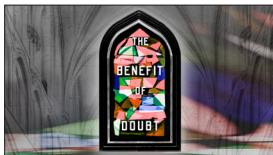
Not in a small group? Go to **GROUPLINK** after services today!



Your  
story  
matters.

SEPT 7, 2025

Message Notes



## The Benefit of Doubt

### "Is There a Benefit to Doubt?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen | Sept 7, 2025

Today I'm challenging and inviting everyone at Riverside to fully engage these next 6 weeks in our All Church Spiritual Journey because if you will, God will use it to help you experience a more intentional life that will help you discover that there can actually be some \_\_\_\_\_ benefits to doubt.

Note **Ephesians 5:15-17**

## 1. What's God's Desire for Me? (My \_\_\_\_\_ Life)

Note **Romans 6:13**

*The only thing Christianity cannot be is moderately \_\_\_\_\_.*  
(C.S. Lewis)

If Jesus is who He said He is and the Christian faith is true, then He \_\_\_\_\_ everything we are and have.

Note **Deuteronomy 10:12**

I can't have two \_\_\_\_\_ priorities (note **Matthew 6:24**).

Note **Luke 9:59-61**

Where are we saying to God, " \_\_\_\_\_ "?

Note **Luke 14:18-20**

What \_\_\_\_\_ do I keep giving to God to put myself first?

Note **Proverbs 3:5-6** and **Matthew 6:33**

## 2. What's My Part?

Note **Proverbs 10:17a**

Disciple = \_\_\_\_\_ (note **1 Timothy 4:7**).

Discipline = \_\_\_\_\_ gratification.

Our \_\_\_\_\_ define our character.

A. The discipline of saying, " \_\_\_\_\_," (note **Hebrews 12:1**). Two things that hinder any spiritual progress and waste our spiritual potential are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Making better decisions makes \_\_\_\_\_ for God. *If you burn the candle at both ends you're not as \_\_\_\_\_ as you think you are.* (Warren) Not everything in life is of \_\_\_\_\_ value...

B. The discipline of saying, " \_\_\_\_\_," (note **Luke 10:40-42**). The average person lives about \_\_\_\_\_ days...Isn't it a good and wise investment to take about 50 of those days and figure out what to do with the rest of them? The best use of our lives is to invest it in that which will \_\_\_\_\_ it. We can't do it \_\_\_\_\_ and that's okay; it's not all \_\_\_\_\_ doing (note **Psalms 39:6b**; **Proverbs 10:27**; **Philippians 2:13**).

## 3. Why Does This \_\_\_\_\_? (note **2 Corinthians 5:15**)

We live life to the \_\_\_\_\_ by living for Him who died for us.

Note **Romans 12:1**; **2 Corinthians 6:1**

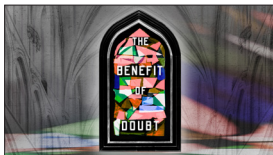
### So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- Only one life, so soon it will pass. Only what's done for Christ will last. (C.T. Studd)
- Let's commit ourselves to God and be a part of something \_\_\_\_\_ (note **Habakkuk 3:2**).

**Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!**

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy), get your book and other materials, then make sure to sign up for a small group at GroupLink at any of our campuses.

\*App: Message Notes/Connect Card Or: **MYRC.LINK/CONNECT**



## The Benefit of Doubt

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## 1. What's God's Desire for Me? (My Entire Life)

Note **Romans 6:13**

*The only thing Christianity cannot be is moderately important.* (C.S. Lewis)  
If Jesus is who He said He is and the Christian faith is true, then He deserves everything we are and have.

Note **Deuteronomy 10:12**

I can't have two #1 priorities (note **Matthew 6:24**).

Note **Luke 9:59-61**

Where are we saying to God, "Me first"?

Note **Luke 14:18-20**

What excuse do I keep giving to God to put myself first?

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## 2. What's My Part?

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Disciple = discipline (note **1 Timothy 4:7**).

Discipline = delayed gratification.

Our habits define our character.

- A. The discipline of saying, "No," (note **Hebrews 12:1**). Two things that hinder any spiritual progress and waste our spiritual potential are sin and weight...Making better decisions makes space for God. *If you burn the candle at both ends you're not as bright as you think you are.* (Warren) Not everything in life is of equal value...
- B. The discipline of saying, "Yes," (note **Luke 10:40-42**). The average person lives about 28,722 days...Isn't it a good and wise investment to take about 50 of those days and figure out what to do with the rest of them? The best use of our lives is to invest it in that which will outlast it. We can't do it all and that's okay; it's not all worth doing (note **Psalms 39:6b**; **Proverbs 10:27**; **Philippians 2:13**).

## 3. Why Does This Matter? (note **2 Corinthians 5:15**)

We live life to the fullest by living for Him who died for us.

Note **Romans 12:1**; **2 Corinthians 6:1**

### *So can there be benefit to my doubt?*

- *Only one life, so soon it will pass. Only what's done for Christ will last.* (C.T. Studd)
- Let's commit ourselves to God and be a part of something special (note **Habakkuk 3:2**).

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