

OBJECTIVES

- Students know that it is okay to have doubts as they grow in faith and identify some of the questions that they are personally wrestling with related to faith.
- Students know that they are not alone in their doubts and questions

THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Everybody has doubts about their faith at some point. There's no discussion on the matter. Everybody--everybody--has doubts. Sometimes they show up and fade quickly. Other doubts linger, like a chronic condition that hangs over our heads for a long time. These doubts often come during times of significant life change--the death of a loved one, the birth of a loved one, a move, a big decision, middle school.

Adolescence brings with it immense change. You might not be making huge life decisions, but every part of your life is in upheaval, from your body to your belief. Hopefully, confirmation class has opened you up to some new ideas about faith, ideas that might leave you with some serious questions... and some doubts.

God knows we all have doubts and God doesn't expect us to come out of the waters of baptism--or confirmation class--as perfect, mature, fully formed Christians. Instead, we're invited on a journey of faith where we continue to grow, being formed in community with other believers. In the kingdom-like, best version of this community, our questions are welcomed and encouraged, because when we work through them together, the whole community grows in faith.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Bible

EXPLORE SCRIPTURE

Jesus asked numerous questions in the Gospels to provoke reflection, reveal truth, and guide His followers toward deeper faith.

Jesus' questions were not merely rhetorical; they were designed to **challenge assumptions, encourage introspection, and reveal spiritual truths**. He often asked questions to His disciples, the crowds, and even religious leaders, prompting them to examine their hearts, motives, and understanding of God's kingdom (John 14:6). These questions invite personal reflection and active engagement with Scripture rather than passive reading.

Examples of Key Questions

Look up the following scripture passages and note what Jesus is challenging his listeners to think about for themselves. Make sure to read the paragraph around each quote to get a sense of the context of Jesus' question.

Matthew 5:46

Matthew 7:3

Matthew 9:28

“If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have?” (Matthew 5:46) – challenges conventional morality and encourages love beyond reciprocity

“Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log in your own?” (Matthew 7:3) – challenges self-awareness and judgment

“Do you believe I am able to do this?” (Matthew 9:28) – tests faith and trust in His power

Jesus asked questions not to find the 'right' answer, but to prompt reflection. When you have a question, follow where that questions lead you. It's ok to question scripture, church, the pastor, even God. Faithful questioning leaves open the possibility that despite all evidence to the contrary, God may yet be at work. Faithfulness is not being without questions; it's trusting God through the questions.

DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions with your parent.

- Consider the following passages about asking. What reassurance does each provide?
Matthew 7:7-11, Psalm 34:4
- When has there been a time when you've had a big question for God? Maybe something that happened in your life, or something you didn't understand?
- What things to people ask “Why, God?” about?
- Do you think that questions are a sign of a weak faith, a strong faith, or something else? Why?