

Week 2

Anchored: Faith and Hope

Knowing about Jesus and trusting Jesus are two different things. This week explores what it takes to close that gap.

Day 1 — Can You Really Trust Jesus?

Optional Reading: Proverbs 3 • Colossians 1 • John 11

“Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

This morning you rolled out of bed and stood up without testing gravity first. You didn’t check whether your heart would beat or whether your brain would fire signals to your feet. This morning, you took the 1st of more than 20,000 breaths today. You didn’t think about a single one. You sat in a chair without testing it. Tonight you’ll crawl back in bed, confident the sun and moon will keep their course – and tomorrow....you’ll do it all again, no new evidence required. Why?

You didn’t earn that confidence. It’s trust so automatic you forgot it was trust at all. Trusting Jesus should be no different – after all, he’s the one who set all of it in motion to begin with – but do you trust Him the same way?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Proverbs 3:5. Complete the verse: “___ in the LORD with ___, and do not rely on ___.”

2. Read Proverbs 3:6. According to this verse, what will God do if you acknowledge him? What does that mean?

3. Read Colossians 1:17. According to this verse, what does Christ do for all things? How long has He been doing this? Why is this important to trusting Jesus?

- Read John 11:1-44 for full context of the next questions.
4. Read John 11:6. What does Jesus decide to do after learning of Lazarus’ condition?

5. Read John 11:11. What does Jesus say he WILL do? Does he say this with or without confidence?

6. Read John 11:14-15, 40. Why has Jesus delayed his response to Lazarus’ condition?

7. Read John 11:25-27, 40-42, 45. What’s the difference between Martha’s belief and crowd’s belief?

8. Read John 11:11, 44. Did Jesus have a plan? What purpose did His plan serve? Did He glorify God?

Reflect: *Think of a time you trusted Jesus and he came through. Was it on your timing or His?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 2 — Faith Is Confidence, Not Certainty

Optional Reading: Matthew 14 • Habakkuk 2 • Mark 9 • Luke 17 • Genesis 17 • Romans 4

“I do believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

This father says the truest prayer most of us are too embarrassed to admit: *I believe. Help me where I don't.* Jesus doesn't wait for the doubt to clear out before he moves in. He's already there. Jesus heals the son with the unbelief still lingering in the room.

Jesus doesn't need doubt resolved. He knows what we try to hide can fester - while what we confess gets healed.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Matthew 14:28-29. What does Peter do after Jesus says “Come”?

2. Read Matthew 14:30-31. What happens when Peter sees the wind? Who rescues? What is said?

3. Read Habakkuk 2:4. According to this verse, how will the righteous person live?

4. Read Mark 9:23–24. Write out the father's cry, word for word. Read 9:27, what ultimately happens? What must have been true?

5. Read Luke 17:5-6. What do the apostles ask the Lord to do?

6. Read Luke 17:6. The disciples ask for more faith. Jesus answers by describing the smallest kind. What's he correcting about their question?

7. Read Gen 17:17, 18:10-12. How do Abraham and Sarah respond to God in 17:17 and 18:12?

8. Read Romans 4:3. According to this verse, Abraham ____ believed God, and it was credited it to him for ____.

Reflect: *What doubt have you been carrying that you could bring honestly to Jesus instead?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 3 — When Doubt Visits

Optional Reading: Psalm 42 • Psalm 73 • Habakkuk 1 • Matthew 11 • John 20 • Luke 17 • Jude 1

“... asked him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’” (Matthew 11:2–3)

Even John the Baptist — the forerunner of Jesus and the man who baptized Him — sent a message from prison asking if Jesus was really who he claimed to be. Doubt visits everyone, including people whose faith you'd never question.

God, in His great graciousness has given us multiple examples of how we are not alone in our times of doubt. Doubt isn't proof your faith has failed. It's often proof your faith is being stretched into something more profound than it was before.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 42:5. What question does the psalmist ask his own soul?

2. Read Psalm 73. In vs 2-3, what does Asaph say “had almost slipped”? Why? In vs 26 what & who are attributed for Asaph’s weakness and strength?

3. Read Psalm 73:17. Where does Asaph say he went before he understood?

4. Read Habakkuk 1:2. Write out Habakkuk's opening question exactly. Know Habakkuk was God’s prophet to His people.

5. Read Matthew 11:3. Write out the exact question John's messengers ask Jesus. Read Matt 3:1-17, 16:14, Luke 1:57-80, 3:1-20; John 3:22-30 to understand John the Baptist.

6. Read Matthew 11:5. List the specific things Jesus points to as evidence.

7. Read John 20:25. What condition does Thomas set for believing?

8. Read Jude 1:22. What does Jude instruct believers to do for those who doubt?

Reflect: *What's underneath your doubt right now — unanswered prayer, unresolved pain, lack of experience? Name it specifically.*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 4 — Hope That Doesn't Disappoint

Optional Reading: Lamentations 3 • Psalm 130 • Romans 15 • Romans 5 • Romans 8 • 1 Peter 1 • Hebrews 6

“We also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:3–5)

Biblical hope isn't wishful thinking. It's confidence built *through* hardship, not despite it — a hope that's been tested and has held. That's why Scripture can say hope "does not disappoint us": it's not based on circumstances turning out fine, but on God's character holding steady when they don't.

Carnal (flesh) hope holds its breath, waiting to see what happens. Spiritual hope breathes easy, knowing who holds what happens.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Lamentations 3:22–24. What two things does the writer say are “new every morning”? Because of this who is hope placed in?

2. Read Psalm 130:5. What does the psalmist say he waits for? What is hope placed in?

3. Read Romans 15:13. What does this verse say hope will help you overflow with, and by whose power does that happen?

4. Read Romans 5:5. What does this verse say “does not disappoint us”?

5. Read Romans 8:18. What comparison does Paul make between present sufferings and future glory?

6. Read 1 Peter 1:7. What is faith compared to being “of greater worth” than?

7. Read Hebrews 6:13-18. What two unchangeable things does this verse mention?

8. Read Hebrews 6:19. What image does the writer use to describe hope?

Reflect: *What hard season built hope in you that you didn't have before?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 5 — Trusting Him With What's Next

Optional Reading: Psalm 37 • Isaiah 41 • Jeremiah 29 • Matthew 6 • Philippians 4

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Most of us trust God fine with the past — it's settled, it can't be changed. The harder trust is future tense: the diagnosis not yet given, the decision not yet made, the year not yet lived.

Leaning not on your own understanding doesn't mean you stop thinking, planning, or striving toward your goals. It means holding your plans with open hands — gripped by conviction, yet loose in outcome — so that when God redirects, you don't feel the loss of a plan interrupted, but you feel the grace of a Father who saw further than you could.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 37:4. What does this verse say God will give you?

2. Read Psalm 37:5. What two actions does this verse command?

3. Read Isaiah 41:10. List what God says he will do (“I will...”) in this verse.

4. Read Jeremiah 29:11. According to this verse, what kind of future does God say he plans to give?

5. Read Matthew 6:33. Complete the verse: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his ____.”

6. Read Matthew 6:34. What does Jesus say not to worry about?

7. Read Philippians 4:6. According to this verse, what should you do “instead” of being anxious?

8. Read Philippians 4:7. What does this verse say will guard your hearts and minds?

Reflect: *What part of your future are you gripping tightly instead of holding open to God?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Memorization: *What verse this week impacted you in a way that you should commit it to memory?*
