DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

THE ENEMY OF FAITH IS NOT DOUBT; IT IS UNEXPRESSED DOUBT. THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE ANYONE CAN ASK "BUT WHAT ABOUT...?" AND FACE SOME OF FAITH'S TOUGHEST QUESTIONS WITH HONESTY AND CONVICTION. THAT'S WHAT THIS SERIES WILL DO.

1 Living life well demands learning to navigate uncertainty. Followers of Jesus will always have to wrestle with some uncertainty. How have you found this to be true in life and in relationship to following Jesus?

2 THE NATURE OF GOD makes the pursuit of complete understanding impossible. Read Romans 11:33-36. We will never reach a place in our relationship with God where there are no more questions. Why is it important for us realize that having all the answers is not the goal in the first place?

3 GOD HAS A PLACE in His family for those struggling to **believe.** The enemy of faith is not doubt; it is unexpressed doubt. Jude, who many believe was the brother of Jesus, writes, "Be merciful to those who doubt" (Jude 22). What encouragement does this verse bring to you? What can followers of Jesus do to better put it into practice?

4 GOD HAS PROVIDED strong evidence from which one can take a leap of faith. Mankind is hardwired to hunger for something bigger than ourselves to believe in (the very existence of this longing is evidence for the existence of God). God gives ample evidence to help us reach a verdict beyond reasonable doubt (His creation, the wonder of scripture, the witness of His people, the resurrection of Jesus). Read Acts 17:30-31. What evidence for God has had the biggest impact on your life?

5 THE BARRIER TO FAITH is often moral more than intellectual. For many people the issue is not evidence; the issue is obedience. In what ways would believing in God's existence be a major inconvenience for some people? How have you seen this play out around you?

6 THERE ARE THINGS we can do to strengthen our faith. Faith is more than intellectual agreement, faith is a verb. Rick mentioned a few things we can do to strengthen our faith: Decide that you want help with your unbelief. **Put** faith-building material in your mind. Meet with and develop relationships that encourage faith. Most of all, obey what faith would ask of you. With those ideas in mind, what's your next step to a stronger faith?

7 WE MUST ALLOW what we know to inform what we may never understand. We must allow the truth of which we are certain to be the lens through which we interpret all the uncertainties of life. This is why the cross is so important. Read 1 John 3:16. How has that truth impacted your relationship with God lately?

8 SALVATION DEPENDS more on the object of our faith than its strength. Jesus is greater than our struggle to believe. So keep following Him. Read 2 Timothy 2:13. What comfort do you find knowing that He will be faithful even when we are not full of faith?

RICK ATCHLEY

WEEK 9 June 24-25 BUT WHAT ABOUT But What About All the Doubts I Still Have

