



WEEK THREE | WHY ARE PEOPLE DECONSTRUCTING?

We are changing the typical group gathering up a bit for the next 2–3 weeks depending on the size of your group and how often you meet. Our faith stories are crucial to who we are and who we are becoming. The whole process of deconstructing our faith commonly happens in our teen and early adult years. No one's story is the same as another's. We will find common themes and experiences in probably all our stories. That's called community and understanding. "Yes, I went through that." "I thought I was the only one who felt that way." We are going to share some stories.

GETTING STARTED

Take 30–45 minutes at the beginning to let each group member share what they experienced moving from simplistic faith (when we are children) to complex faith (adolescence/young adulthood – questioning authority and rules handed down to us). This is not your life story. How did you deconstruct your faith then, and where did you land?

Use this thought from Russ's message as a guide when sharing your story.

"What young people need to be lovingly and clearly taught is that when they leave home and experience a crisis of faith, they are simply living the normal Christian life."

How were you prepared for this?

TALK ABOUT IT

Read Acts 9:1–15 (Saul's conversion)

What makes you uncomfortable about doubt?

How can doubt be a good thing?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:2-5

Faith is not defined by how right we are but how loving we are; not how good we are but how good God is; not by "Look at us and what we're doing," but "Look at Jesus and what he is doing."

How are you doing at being or becoming this kind of person?

APPLY IT

We must do our part in developing good faith and understanding where people are coming from.

What makes you nervous about opening ourselves to asking the hard questions about faith and life?

What will be the rewards for making room for hard questions?

PRAY

Nothing will make you feel more like a community than this time. Share your joys, your burdens, your victories, your fears. This is the place to do it.