



WEEK TWO | FAITH AND DOUBT

What do you have second thoughts about? What do you dwell on more than you wish when you are alone with your thoughts? We all do this. Life and circumstances force it, sometimes to the point of crisis. Just when we have our comfortable world all buttoned up, someone starts asking hard questions that don't fit the mindset we've developed and grown comfortable with. I don't know why we tend to think following Jesus should be safe and comfortable. I just don't see any of that in the Bible. He always seemed to be challenging people to think differently. He could never be accused of being mainstream or conventional. That just wasn't the real Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

Which of these describes how you feel about this series and why?

- **Excited about it**
- **Cautiously optimistic**
- **Not excited about it**

TALK ABOUT IT

What is something you believed wholeheartedly at one point and changed course to believe differently? What changed?

We begin life with simple understanding like black and white (right or wrong). As we mature, we learn to change and adapt because we're learning there is more than two sides of a coin. There are times when our worldview shakes or crumbles. Things didn't go as we thought they would, and we question or reject things we believed.

Where do or did you find a safe community to ask your hard life questions?

Why do you think Christian communities have the reputation of not being safe or helpful?

APPLY IT

Read Ephesians 4:14–15

Why is it difficult to live out the biblical principle of love that Jesus modeled, and apply it to our interactions with people that think differently than we do?

How can speaking the truth in love be helpful?

How can it be abused?

It is very unlikely that Thomas is the only one who doubted and felt the way he did. Some of the others probably didn't have the courage to speak up.

What do you think will be the key for you and Maury Hills to dealing with the difficult questions about God and Jesus we will face in our quickly changing culture?

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.