

iSearch  
Wk 1/3: iDoubt  
December 5 & 6, 2020



## LEADER PREP

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize they can be open and honest in sharing their deep questions with God and your small group.

### STUDENT QUESTIONS

Today's discussion is centered around this question: "Is it ok to doubt God?"

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:24-33, &  
1 Chronicles 29:11

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Sometimes when Christians hear that others have questions about God, they can really freak out. Well, wrestling with questions is actually a natural part of growing in our faith. **A part of your middle school students growing in their faith will be asking BIG questions and listening for tough answers.** Asking questions is a part of coming to understand our world. As your students' leader, you help your students by:

- (1) Letting your students know you are a safe person for them to bring their deep questions and tough issues.
- (2) Don't feel like you have to have all the answers; your job is to point them to the God who has every answer.
- (3) Walk alongside your student as they look for answers: are there Bible verses you can read together to look for the answer?

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### MAIN POINT

**God isn't scared of our questions;  
He is bigger than them.**

### GET THEM TALKING

What are some reasons that people might doubt God?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe doubt in your own words?

#### **READ MATTHEW 14:24-33,**

**then answer the following questions:**

2. How did Peter show faith in this passage?
3. How did Peter show doubt in this passage?
4. How does Jesus' response show grace for Peter even in the middle of his doubt?
5. How do you think God feels about our questions and doubts?
6. Have you ever had any questions about God? Can you write one down on an index card\* & then share it out loud.  
\*Leaders, consider collecting these and taking time to talk through them throughout the next few weeks.
7. Why do you think people like Peter still choose to trust God, even when they have questions and doubts?

#### **READ 1 CHRONICLES 29:11 and answer the following questions:**

8. What does this passage say about God?
9. What are ways we can go to God to seek answers for our doubts and questions?

### NEXT STEP

INDIVIDUAL: Encourage your students to take some time this week to pray and bring their questions to God.

GROUP: Have your group pick one of the questions a student wrote down to research answers for this week and talk about what you all found together next week.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students for their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

## SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

### MATTHEW 14:24-33 (NLT)

“Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. <sup>25</sup> About three o’clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!”

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

<sup>29</sup> “Yes, come,” Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

<sup>32</sup> When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup> Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

### 1 CHRONICLES 29:11 (NLT)

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things.”

## LEADER CORNER

On our Hope Student Ministry app, we have answered the twelve top student questions we’ve received over the years in short videos. It’s possible that answers to some of your students’ questions are there – download it and check it out! Let your students know about it.