

September 14: The Benefit of Doubt

Is There Life After Deconstruction?

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; John 6: 60-69; Matthew 7: 24-27

- 1) How has last week's message that Jesus is present to us in and sometimes even through our doubts continued to sit with you this week?
- 2) Is there a particular doubt that you have brought to God and would be willing to share with others?
- 3) Have you heard of "deconstruction" as a Christian term before this Sunday? If so, what meaning did it have for you?
- 4) Pastor Nick defined deconstruction as, "The processes Christians may undergo after their life experience fractures their structures of belief or understanding." That's a lot of words. How might you define it in your own words or give an example?
- 5) Thinking not just about spiritual things but life in general, when was a time when something happened in your life that made you reassess the assumptions and beliefs you had started with?
- 6) Now extending to your life in Jesus, are you able to share a time in which life brought you a difficulty in which you came to the end of your own spiritual resources?
- 7) Have you known anyone for whom undergoing deconstruction seemed to change their beliefs or even behaviors in destructive ways, rather than ways leading to greater life in Christ?
- 8) Have you ever experienced a time in which the loss of your previous understanding led to greater life on the other side?

9) What are some resources that help you to trust that the one foundation of Christ will be there, even if everything else seems to be failing?

September - early November Series -The Benefit of Doubt

Are there really any benefits to doubt? We believe there are. Utilizing Craig Groeschel's book, "The Benefit of Doubt", over the course of the next ten weeks we will ask hard questions and wrestle with uncertainties which we believe can lead to a more resilient, honest, and mature faith. God isn't deterred by our doubts - we need not be either!

Theme #1: Is doubt a dead end?

Scripture: Luke 24: 35-48

- 1) How do you view doubt? Do you see it as a negative or a positive?
- 2) What emotions are stirred up inside of you when you think about exploring your doubts on faith?
- 3) All of us deal with our doubts a little differently. Some keep it to themselves; others are more eager to share. How did the disciples deal with their doubts about Jesus? (Luke 24: 35).
- 4) Have you ever been hurt by someone who either discredited you or shamed you for your doubts?
- 5) How can we encourage each other to feel safe in sharing our doubts?
- 6) How did Jesus approach the disciples in their doubting? (Luke 24: 36-40). Did he encourage them through their doubts?
- 7) Some Christians even choose to walk away from their faith because of their doubts remaining unaddressed. How can we support those who often do not feel heard or understood?
- 8) Can doubt and faith coexist?
- 9) How can we move forward even though our doubts haven't been fully resolved? Can we live into our purpose even though we might have lingering doubts? (Luke 24: 47-49).