



Your
story

matters.

OCT 12, 2025

Message Notes



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

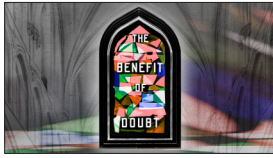
If you could instantly organize one thing you own or manage, what would you pick and why?

1. As a group, discuss your thoughts and takeaways from Chapters 9 and 10 of *The Benefit of Doubt*.
2. John's upbringing gave him a clear sense of God's call and story (**Luke 1:5-6, 8-11, 13-17, 36-41**). How has your upbringing helped shape your understanding of God?
3. Pastor Tom shared that experiencing the love and power of God is "no inoculation against doubt." Read **Matthew 3:15b-17** and **Luke 7:18-19**. John went from strong belief to stunning doubt. What do you do when you find yourself on this rollercoaster of emotions?
4. Read **Matthew 14:3-5; Luke 3:19-20, 7:18b-19**. Where did John go when his experiences shook his faith in Jesus? What does it look like to bring your doubts to Jesus?
5. Read **Luke 7:21-28**. Jesus responded patiently to John the Baptist's doubt, reassuring him and speaking well of him to others, even praising his faith! What good things does Jesus see in you when he sees past your doubts?
6. Pastor Tom stated: "In John the Baptist's deepest pain, Jesus sent a promise to strengthen his faith and He will do the same for you and me." Will you choose to believe His promise?

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read Chapters 9-10 (pages 151-180) of *The Benefit of Doubt*.

Not too late to join a small group! Use the GroupFinder at MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER!



The Benefit of Doubt

“Are You the One?”

Pastor Tom Lundeen | Oct 12, 2025

We've been focusing on different people in the _____ who struggled with doubt.

But God actually used their doubts to ultimately _____ their faith and not have doubt be what defines them.

John the Baptist shows us no one is immune from navigating doubts about Jesus:

1. Despite Our _____ Background/History

Note **Luke 1:5-6, 8-11, 13-17, 36-41**

John grew up knowing that his life was ordained by God for an incredible _____...(note **Luke 1:18-22**).

Being born and raised in a solid Christian home with godly parents, with a good church to be a part of, with spiritually healthy friends, etc., is no _____ against doubts creeping into our lives (note **Matthew 14:1-5; Luke 7:18-19**).

2. Despite Experiencing God's Power and _____

Note **Matthew 11:12-13; Luke 3:2b-7a; Matthew 3:13-14; John 1:29**

And what did John the Baptist _____ and _____ when he baptized Jesus (note **Matthew 3:13-17**)?

We can _____ God's presence and love and faithfulness and power in worship, in our personal times with God in prayer and Scripture reading, in answers to prayer, seeing God use us in lives of others, see our own life and the lives of others transformed by the grace of God, and still deal with doubts (note **Luke 7:18b-19**).



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3. We Will All Face Circumstances that Cause Us to _____ God

Note **Matthew 14:1-5; Luke 3:19-20**

"Are You the One?" - was a question that had never _____ his mind before.

But his desperate circumstances seemed to _____ what he presumed was true and would never doubt.

All of us will face situations, events, and circumstances that can shake our faith and have doubts _____ all around us.

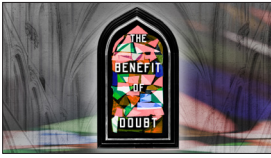
So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- What was Jesus' _____ to John the Baptist (note **Luke 7:21-23**)?
- And then...(note **Luke 7:24-28**).
- Jesus praises John the Baptist despite his doubts.
- Jesus knows even the strongest lovers of God go through times of doubt and _____.
- He doesn't _____ us.
- He is _____ with our doubts.
- *He completely paid for any sin that's _____ in our pain.* (Bloom)
- In John the Baptist's deepest pain, Jesus sent a promise to strengthen his faith and He will do the same for you and me.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT

**Small Group Discussion &
Personal Guides on the back**



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Note **Matthew 11:12-13; Luke 3:2b-7a; Matthew 3:13-14; John 1:29**

And what did John the Baptist see and hear when he baptized Jesus (note **Matthew 3:13-17**)?

We can experience God's presence and love and faithfulness and power in worship, in our personal times with God in prayer and Scripture reading, in answers to prayer, seeing God use us in lives of others, see our own life and the lives of others transformed by the grace of God, and still deal with doubts (note **Luke 7:18b-19**).

3. We Will All Face Circumstances that Cause Us to Question God

Note **Matthew 14:1-5**; **Luke 3:19-20**

Are You the One? - was a question that had never crossed his mind before.

But his desperate circumstances seemed to deflate what he presumed was true and would never doubt.

All of us will face situations, events, and circumstances that can shake our faith and have doubts cascade all around us.

So can there be benefit to my doubt?

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