

Session 5: Practicing Being Wrong and Discerning the Truth

PREP

Big Idea: Doubting our doubts and desires, listening to time-tested heroes and traditions and leaning on the Spirit who points to Jesus instead of ourselves helps us to come out better on the other side of deconstruction.

Group Goal: Help your group take doubt to the next level by imagining the value of doubting doubts, discerning truth through the Spirit and listening intently to time-tested heroes and traditions.

Facilitator Goal: Select the four questions that will best help your community accomplish the group goal above. You may use the following questions or come up with your own questions. Watch the clock and give adequate time to discuss these, filling in extra time with additional questions.

LESSON

Lesson Questions

CHAPTER 8

1. What fears keep Christians from admitting their wrong beliefs or exploring the potential that they may be wrong?
2. If you were to put together a list of your theological “retractions” (e.g., things you are “now humble enough to amend,” p. 128 paperback; p. 162 ebook) what would that tell you about your journey with God?
3. The author writes, “God will from ‘time to time’ shatter our thoughts of him in order that we might love him more. [C.S.] Lewis knew that Scripture warns that we can worship our ideas of God over God” (p. 133 paperback; p. 167 ebook). Have you ever experienced this shattering? How could someone make sure they’re in a place to receive this shattering when it’s needed most?

4. The author writes that our hatred of “isms” is often selective and regularly has to do with what’s out there instead of what’s happening in our own hearts. What makes us so selective about our “isms” and how can we keep them from tearing us apart?
5. Romans 3:4 says “Let God be true and every human being a liar.” Reflect on this verse. What might God want to say to you through this in your whatever challenges, hardships or doubts you are facing right now?

CHAPTER 9

6. Read Philippians 1:9-10. What is the relationship between love and discernment?
7. In our “postjudgmental world” “afraid to name lies as lies” (p. 142 paperback; p. 177 ebook), how do we hold constructive conversations about untruth?
8. Read 1 John 4:1-3. What is it like to experience discernment through the Spirit and how is this different from much of the spiritualism that is common today?
9. How have personal heroes provided a guiding influence for you in your walk of faith? What could those personal heroes offer you as you navigate some of your most difficult moments?

TL;DR

1. What is something you underlined and why?
2. What is an area you feel like you want to grow in?
3. What's a perspective you want to change?

Conclusion

Ask your group members to **read** chapters **10 and 11** before your next meeting.

Pray