

To Be Honest: Part Two: Doubts Swirl

Introduction

We're all tempted to try to present God with the best possible versions of ourselves...even if those versions aren't entirely true to who we are. But God wants our true selves. He invites honesty because it creates the potential for a deeper relationship with him. Until you are fully honest with God, you will not experience God fully. One thing that prevents us from being honest with God is doubt about who he is and what he's promised. But God doesn't want us to bury our doubt or try to ignore it. Instead, he wants it to act as a bridge to a fuller, more life-changing relationship with him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you?

"To be honest with God about your doubts, reveals to God what is true about you; To be honest with God in praise, reminds you what is true about God."

What causes us to doubt? Share about a time when you experienced doubt in your relationship with God.

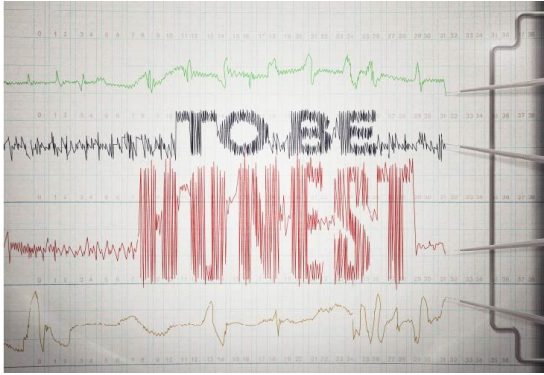
Read: Jeremiah 29:11; Psalms 13:1-6

Context: *Jeremiah was a prophet in Israel when the nation had turned their back on God. He shared a message of hope and reconciliation but the nation rejected it. There were times when even Jeremiah doubted. David was a Giant Slayer, a Successful Warrior, an Adulterer and a Murderer yet he was called A Man After God's Own Heart. David was brutally honest with God despite his shortcomings and achievements.*

- Is it possible to have a relationship with God, even if we still struggle with the question "Are you really real?"
- Why do we find it difficult to be honest with God, and others, about doubts we have?
- To be honest with God builds a relationship that is strong enough to handle any of our doubts. What are some steps we can take to cultivate and maintain this type of relationship with God?
- Read Jeremiah 19:11, do you ever struggle with reading the good attributes of God and experiencing contradictory circumstances in your life?
- Read Psalms 13:1-6, do you relate to David when answering not the question "What has God done for me lately?" but instead "What has God done for me ever?" (hint: Psalm 13:5).
- Jason shared with us 2 tools we can use when faced with doubt:
 - To be honest with God about them (our doubts).
 - To be honest with God about His goodness in praise.
 - How did David use these tools in Psalm 13 when faced with doubt in his life? How can you use these tools?
- Jason said, "**To be honest with God in praise, reminds you what is true about God.**" What does honesty with God look like while being honest with our doubts?
- What is something that you know you need to get honest with God about? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Your doubt doesn't have to be a barrier to a relationship with God. It can be a strength instead of a weakness. Being honest with God about your doubt and turning to him in praise bridges gaps in the relationship. Being honest about your doubt tells God what is true about you. Being honest in praise tells God what is true about him.



LIVE IT OUT

Memorize: Psalm 13:5

Journaling: Journal about the blessings of God you can praise God for in the midst of your doubts.

Prayer: Take some time this week, to be honest with God about your doubts.

Accountability: Share your doubts with someone in your group.