

Week

4

When in Doubt

The
Unexpected
Gift of
Disillusionment

1-minute recap

Even those who were considered the greatest of all time in the Christian faith, like John the Baptist, wrestled with doubt. A faith that doesn't make room for real life circumstances isn't a faith at all; it's fake.

Have you ever felt boxed in by a faith that makes no room for honest questions? Share an example and discuss what that experience was like.

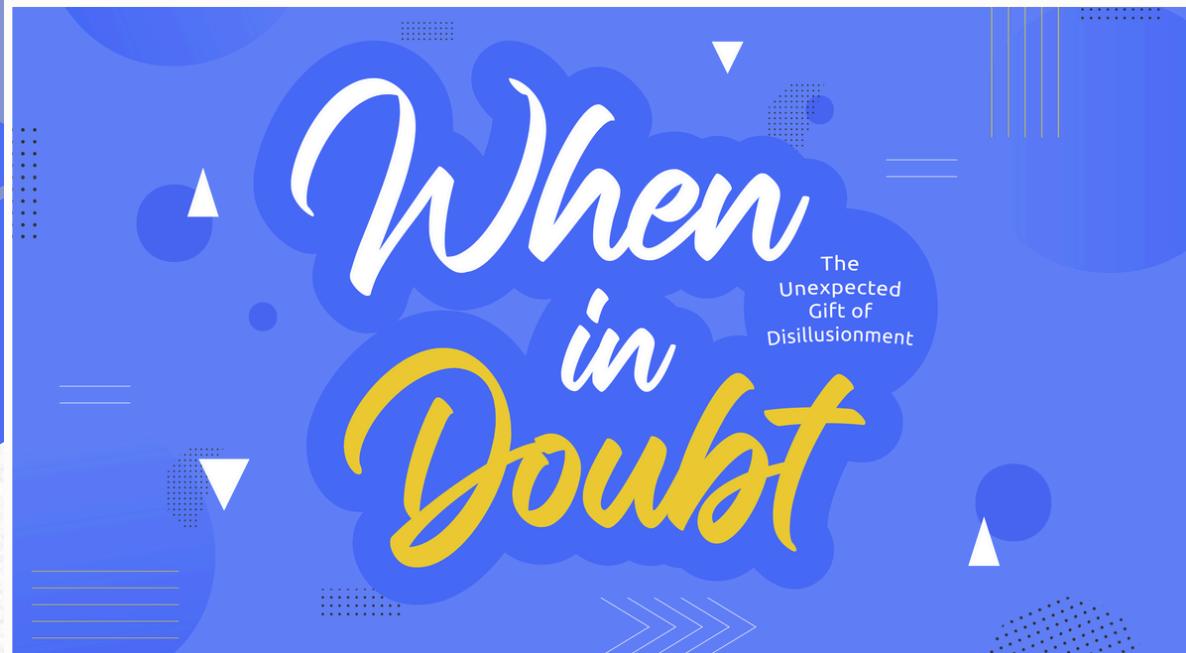
Dive in.



When John the Baptist asked Jesus if he was the one they had been waiting for, do you resonate with his question? Or if not, why?

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

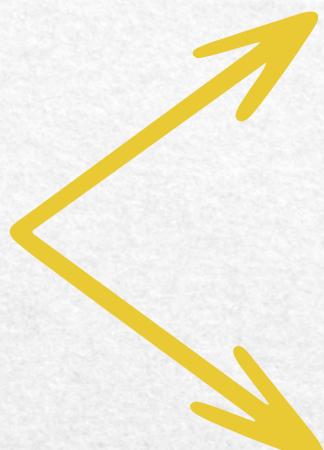
Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”



LEARN

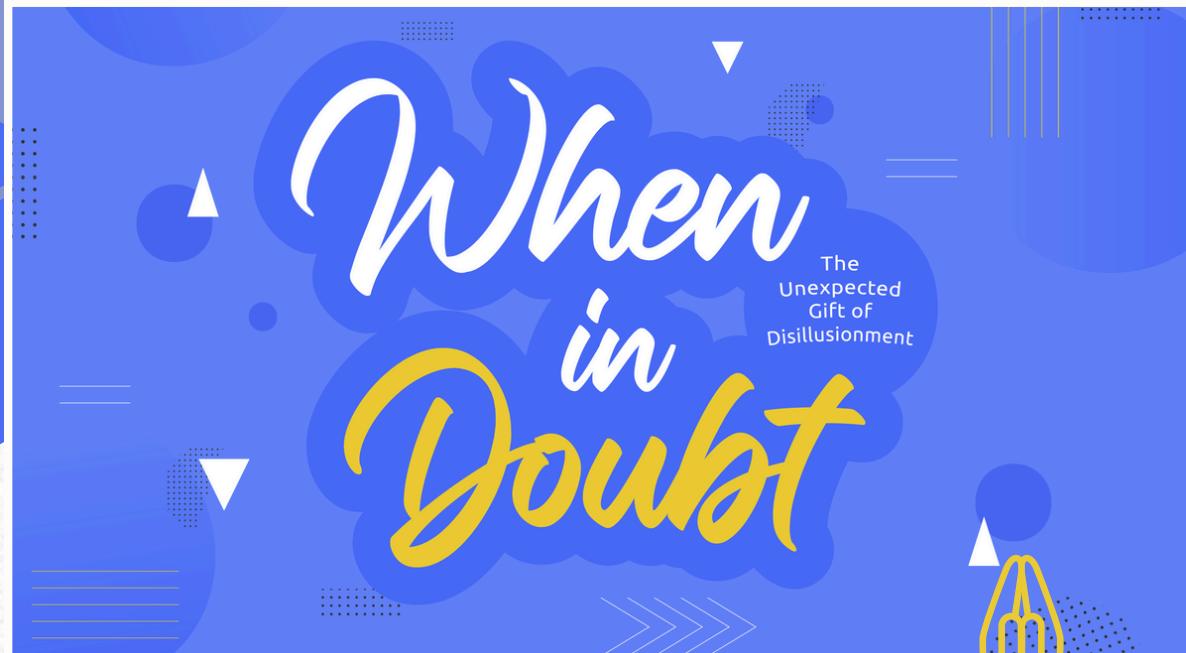
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UNPACK.

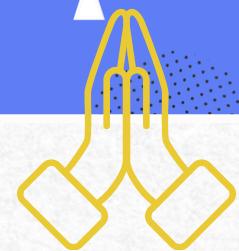


1) Read Isaiah 8:14-15. What do you think Jesus means when he describes himself as a stumbling block?

Share a time in your life when God did not fit into the box you expected him to? How has that shaped your relationship with Him? Others?



FOLLOW IPractice your place



Practice allowing God to be God and you to be you.

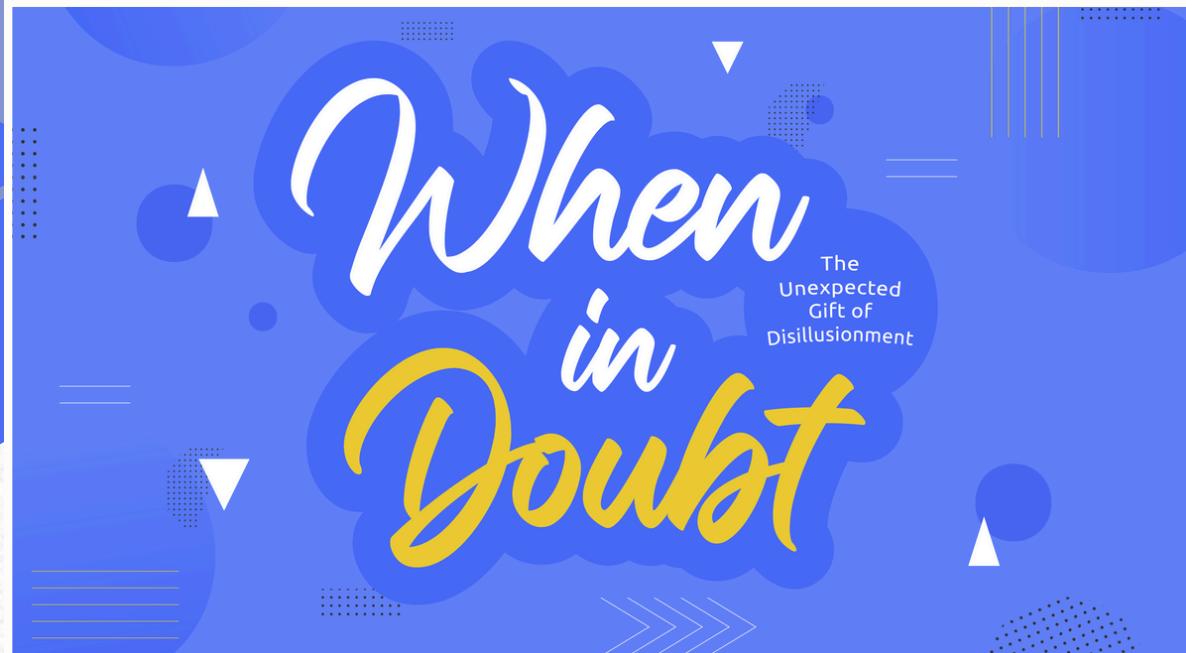
God did not fit into the box that Job wanted God to fit in. After he had suffered much loss and disillusionment, the book of undeserved suffering ends with Job recognizing God's goodness even with unanswered questions.

Read this out loud and prayerfully personalize it by saying your name in the blanks:

I, _____, know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I _____ spoke of things I _____ did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

Job 42:2–3

- **How did that feel?**
- **Does your understanding of God make room for pain and wonder?**
- **Where did you struggle most to believe what you were saying?**



Visit our app, Real Life NCW, to discover ways to serve and engage our community this month!

A smartphone is shown displaying the Real Life NCW app. The screen shows various service opportunities: "Meals for Thrive Teen Center" with a photo of chili, and "Purchase Bibles for Celebrate Recovery" with a photo of a person reading a book. A blue arrow points from the text "DISCOVER WAYS TO ENGAGE" down towards the phone.

**DISCOVER WAYS
TO ENGAGE**

Visit the RealLife NCW app where we add new opportunities every month!

CHECK IT OUT