

VOLUNTEER DEVOTIONAL

REASONABLE DOUBT

STUDY

Without a doubt, you'll have moments where what you thought was a sure thing . . . doesn't seem to add up anymore. It's reasonable to have doubts, but are doubts about *God* okay to have? The stories you'll be teaching teenagers this month point to a Creator who helps you when you doubt God's existence. You may not deny God exists explicitly but there might be times when you wonder why God doesn't seem to be interacting in the world that is hurting so much. There may be days when you doubt God gives us help and begin to feel like following Jesus isn't worth it. If things stay the same, then what's the point? You may doubt that God can give guidance when you have questions. Because God has seemed silent and far. Realizing your doubts are reasonable is the beginning to helping teenagers realize the same thing. God's love and character never changes — even in a season of doubt.

To get ready for this series, **spend a few minutes reading the stories we'll be teaching students this month.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) about doubt through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: When you doubt God is real, look to Jesus.

John 14:1-14; Isaiah 41:9-10

WEEK 2: When you doubt following Jesus is worth it, look to the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-21; Mark 10:17-22

WEEK 3: When you still have questions, look to God's words.

Luke 24:44-53; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

WEEK 4: When you're ready to give up, look for God in unexpected places.

Genesis 2:7; John 20:19-22;
Luke 4:16-21

PRAY

It might feel strange or even scary admitting your doubts. But give it a go. If you ask teenagers to share their doubts, it would be good for you to be willing to sit and wrestle with your own. Write down some of the doubts you have currently. Think about your relationship to God and the things that are happening in your life. Where does doubt tend to cause you to wonder about God's nature and abilities? Talk to God about these things. God sees, cares, and loves you even in moments of doubt.

Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now? Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

So what's your next step? Is there something discouraging you from growing in your faith? Do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and give you courage? Do you need to read God's words for help with your questions? God is waiting and willing to help you through all of it. God cares about you and can handle any amount of doubt you may feel today.

Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.