

Frustrated Faith
Pastor Jeremy Foster
5.19.19

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group.
For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions,
but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

~~Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.~~

Matthew 11:2-3 (NLT)

John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, 3 “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

1. God doesn't always live up to your expectations but He always lives up to His word.

- **Job 14:19 (AB)**

As waters wear away the stones and as floods wash away the soil of the earth, so You [O Lord] destroy the hope of man.

- **Jeremiah 15:18 (KJV)**

Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?

- **1 Kings 19:3-5 (NLT)**

Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. 4 Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died.”

- **Matthew 11:2-3 (NLT)**

John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, 3 “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

2. A prison perspective will always cause you to doubt your destiny.

3. Your faith is more important than your failure.

- **Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)**

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

- **Mark 9:23-24 (NKJV) Help my unbelief.**

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

4. Even when you doubt, God still shows up!

- **John 20:19 (NLT)**

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.

- **John 20:24-29 Thomas**

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

- **Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)**

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What is your favorite restaurant and why? What's your expectation when you go?
2. Expectations can get you in trouble. Share a time when you felt let down because of your expectations? Have you ever been surprised by a better outcome than you expected?
3. "God doesn't always live up to your expectations, but He always lives up to His word." How has this been true in your life?
4. Read Job 14:19, Jeremiah 15:18, and 1 Kings 19:3-5. What did all these men of God share in common? What were their strong attributes? Why did they react and speak the way they did regardless of the way God moved and use them?
5. Read Luke 22:31-32. Our faith is more important to God than our failures. How did God turn around Peter's failure and use his faith to strengthen others? How has God used failure(s) in your life to deepen your faith? How is/can God use your story to strengthen others?
6. Read John 16:33, John 20:19, John 20:24-29, and Deut. 31:6. Pastor Jeremy said, "Even in doubt, God still shows up!" Has there been a time when you doubted, but God still showed up? How has it encouraged your faith?