



DEALING WITH **DOUBT**

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH ON THE ROAD OF DOUBT

Hello church!

Things look radically different for us. It is important to remember that even if we cannot gather together on Sunday, our identity and mission as God's Church remains the same. Our identity and mission have not changed, even if our methods have (fellowship, community worship, missions, etc.). This can be seen as something negative or we can prayerfully see this as an opportunity for God to work and grow us through. I prefer the latter.

This guide is a tool to help us spend some intentional time with God as a family. This guide closely follows our weekly sermon series, so be sure to stay connected with the messages. Below is a brief explanation for how to utilize your time well. Please call or email if you have any question, concerns, or issues.

In love,
Skyler Elmer

EXPLANATION OF WEEKLY BIBLE READING STRUCTURE

Open with Prayer: Reading the Bible is about fellowship with God. Take two minutes to be silent and connect with God in prayer.

Open the Word: God speaks most clearly to us through His Word. Read God's Word slowly like you would eating the best food you've ever had. Take one bite at a time, savoring all the flavors.

Open your heart: The purpose of the bible is not information, but transformation. Spend time reflecting on how God's Word should impact your life. A good method you can use is called **S.O.A.P.** Here is how it works.

Scripture: Write down one verse that spoke to you as you read the Scriptures.

Observation: Write down what captured your attention from your reading (a word, verse, concept, impression, etc.). Did God speak to you as you were reading? What did you learn?

Application: Write about any part from the Scriptures that can apply to your life? What will change if you apply it?

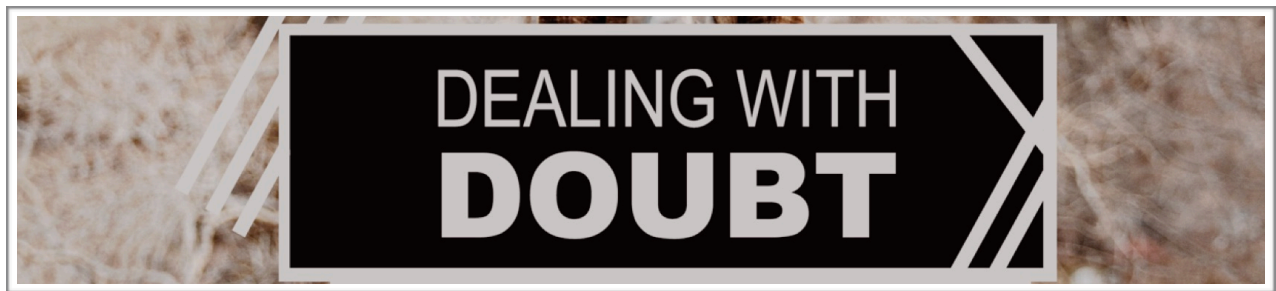
Prayer: Write out a short prayer asking God to help you understand and apply His word for your life

Close in Prayer: End the way you began: be still. Think about what you read and what God might be trying to say to you today. Spend some time asking God to help you live out his mission in this turbulent time.

INSTRUCTION ON TAKING COMMUNION & OFFERINGS AT HOME

Communion is a time where we get to reflect on Jesus giving his life for us on the cross and rising from the grave. The Sunday that we are not able to gather, we will take communion together in the comfort of our homes. You can use water, juice, pop, crackers, bread, chips, etc. The point is not about the food/drinks you choose but honoring the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. When you have the two elements take some time to reflect on Scripture (Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26), and say a prayer.

Offerings is a time to give back to God a portion of what we have out of worship to God (showing our dependency on him) and are continued support of the ministry of our church. There are a variety of ways to give a tithe and offering. First, you can mail a check to the church. Second, you can drop off an offering to the church office. Third, you can set up an automatic payment through your bank. Fourth, you can use our PayPal button on our Give tab on the website.



Dealing with Doubt

Faith and Doubt: Is it bad to doubt?

1. SERMON NOTES:

1. Doubt is the gap between belief and unbelief (doubt is not the opposite of faith)
2. Think of doubt like a semi-truck. It is loaded with assumptions that are taking you somewhere. But you get to choose the destination.
3. Key Idea: Doubt can become the accelerator to faith.
4. Healthy examples of doubt: Matthew 28:16-17; Luke 24:15-35 Acts 17:11-12; Jude 22.
5. How to deal with doubt: 1) Unmask your doubt, 2) Examine your faith, 3) Feed your hope.
 - Os Guinness, *"What is most damaging to Christianity is not that Christians doubt but that there seems to be so little open discussion and understanding of doubt."*
 - Os Guinness *"Doubt is not the opposite of faith, nor is it the same as unbelief. Doubt is a state of mind in suspension between faith and unbelief so that it is neither of them wholly and it is each only partly."*
 - Hummel, *Doubters Welcome* — *"Doubt can be intellectual spiritual thirst, while unbelief is refusal to drink even when the water is offered."*

2. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Reflection: On a scale from 1-10 (1 = ignore, 10 = diligent study) how intentional have you been to seeking answers to your doubts?

Challenges: Name your doubts and unmask your doubts. What assumptions are you believing in your doubts?

Practices:

1. Write down the doubt you have:
 1. Unmask your doubts: what are the underlying beliefs and assumptions behind your doubts?
 2. Examine your faith: How are you choosing to trust those assumptions instead of God or Scripture?
 3. Feed your hope: find proactive ways to feed your faith (Bible, Church, Sermons, Christian books, etc.).
2. Offerings (and special offering) can be mailed to, dropped off, PayPal, or through auto payment through your bank to the Christian Church of Litchfield.
3. Read the Bible Reading Plan.
4. Join us this Wednesday on Facebook for Skyler's interview with Chris DeWelt on prayer.

3. WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

RECOMMENDED BOOKS: Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*; Mark Clark, *The Problem of God*; Alister McGrath, *Doubting*.

DAY 1

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

A:

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Luke 24:13-35
- Acts 1:3-4

P:

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

O:

DAY 3

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- John 20:24-29
- Matthew 28:17

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

O:

DAY 2

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

A:

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 17:10-15
- 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

P:

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

O:

DAY 4

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Matthew 11:1-15
- Psalms 42:11

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

O:

A:

P:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 5

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Mark 9:14-29
- Judges 6:39-40

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

O:

A:

P:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 6

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Matthew 14:22-32
- Psalms 73:23-26

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

O:

A:

P:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)