



SUMMIT
— C H U R C H —
DIRECTION FOR THE JOURNEY



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 4, 2026 | PREPARE THE WAY (week 4)



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

1. What's something you believed very confidently at one point in your life... that you later realized you were totally wrong about?
2. What's a question you used to ask a lot as a kid that you don't ask as much anymore?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

1. Share something from the service or message that stood out, challenged or encouraged you.
2. Read **Luke 7:18-35** together. What jumps out at you from this passage?
3. Why is the *method* for sharing the good news flexible, but the message isn't?
4. Why does God allow faithful followers to experience suffering and pain?
5. When is doubt appropriate or acceptable for the follower? When does doubt become a negative?
6. When have you experienced a similar belief/unbelief tension as the one found in **Mark 9:24**? How has it been resolved? Or, if not resolved, how are you walking through this currently?
7. What are some ways that being in community with other followers helps you to better confront uncertainties and doubts in your faith?



GOING DEEPER

READ **Matthew 11:7-11** together.

1. How do Jesus' words about John after his question help illuminate how Jesus views devotion, doubt and identity? How does this help you personally when your faith might feel shaky?

READ **1 Kings 19:1-8** together.

2. What is the status of Elijah's faith immediately following God's victory over the prophets of Baal (**1 Kings 18**)?

3. Have you ever experienced doubt or downheartedness after a spiritual mountaintop experience? Share.

4. Where do you notice weariness – *physical, emotional, or spiritual* – affecting how you experience faith right now?

READ **Psalms 42:5-11** together.

5. What jumps out at you from this passage?

6. What might it look like for you to name your doubts or discouragements while still choosing to hope?

7. How does truth fuel praise in the midst of doubts, extreme emotions or difficulties?



YOUR NEXT STEP

1. If you are struggling with doubts or downheartedness reach out to a Summit pastor or your small group leader to share your questions, potentially find answers and experience encouragement.

2. Read one of the following books: Disappointment with God by Yancey, Mere Christianity by Lewis, Walking with God through Pain and Suffering by Keller



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take time to share burdens and pray for one another.