

## **April 7, 2024 - Doubt & Deconstruction - Week 1**

Feel free to **PICK AND CHOOSE** some of the questions below to engage with as a group. Before you leave, be sure to spend some time going over the **Top 3** things your group members need to know.

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### **Connect:**

How familiar are you with the term *deconstruction*? How much have you interacted with people who would describe themselves as deconstructing?

Robert took time to share some of the things that have been struggles in his believing, what are some of the issues that have led you to doubt or to ask questions?

### **Engage:**

Robert outlined 3 important concepts that will frame our series:

- Deconstruction ----- leaving “the faith delivered once and for all”
- Doubting----- wrestling with aspects of what you believe
- Disentangling ----- separating unbiblical beliefs from your faith

What do these concepts have in common and how are they different from each other?

### **Read 1 Peter 1:14, 2 Peter 3:3, and 2 Timothy 4:10**

What reasons do the above verses give for these people abandoning their faith?

Do people change their beliefs because of their behavior or change their behavior because of their beliefs?

“Some people deconstruct because of pain. Some people deconstruct for moral reasons.”

How do experiencing pain and changing moral values have an impact on people’s faith?

### **Read John 2:19**

“A starting faith should be a staying faith. An inherited faith should be a refined faith.”

What is the beauty of a faith that grows as it’s tested and as it’s been through something?

### **1 Thessalonians 5:21**

What do you do with your vague uncertainties and persistent questions in your faith?

Do you suppress them or do you let them emerge and face them squarely?

### **Read John 6:66-71**

“You will deconstruct your faith if you don’t add to your faith.”

What are you doing to add to your faith today?

Consider this quote from Ian Harber - “But no path leads to true happiness and everlasting life except Jesus alone (John 14:6) which is narrower than we might like (Matthew 7:13), but more satisfying than we can imagine.”

What are your thoughts on this quote? How has this been true for you?

### **Apply:**

“Are you doubting toward God or away from God?”

How can you better direct your doubt in a way that strengthens your faith instead of weakens it?

As Robert outlined the concept of disentanglement, he reminded us not to take away things that are “essential to the Christian faith.”

What’s the danger of removing things that are key and core to true faith?

### **Top 3:**

#### **We Will Go Serve Day: Saturday, April 13, 9 AM - NOON**

We will serve with We Will Go's essential food program. You MUST register to join us. Please sign up at [fondrenchurch.com/missions](http://fondrenchurch.com/missions).

#### **Men's Breakfast: Sunday, April 14, 8 - 9 AM**

Men, join us for a breakfast in the Social Hall. Come get some food and make a new friend.

#### **Secret Church: Friday, April 19, 6 PM - MIDNIGHT**

Join us as we study the book of Ruth. Through our ministry partnership with URGENT, we are able to provide this opportunity for free. Each participant will receive a book that will be used as a guide and resource for this experience. In order to make this experience the best it can be, we need to know that you are coming. Sign up at [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).

#### **Recommended Resources**

The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God: Why New Atheism Grew Old and Secular Thinkers Are Considering Christianity Again - Justin Brierley