

Lesson 7 / April 13, 2008

# Just for Doubters

for use as

## STEP 1

### Lesson 7 Focus:

Take your doubts to  
Jesus.

### Lesson 7 Bible Basis:

John 20:19-29

Students will examine their doubts, and then learn from Scripture about godly ways to handle doubt.

**B**efore class, push furniture to the walls so you've got as much open space as possible in the middle of your classroom. Once your students have gathered, get them on their feet and line them up near one end of the room—but not right against the wall. Then say,

Today we're going to talk about doubt. First, I want to find out about what you think about doubt right now. So, I'm going to ask you a bunch of questions. Some of them are serious and some are silly. After each question, if you want to answer *yes*, take one step, hop or jump forward. If you want to answer *no*, take one step, hop or jump backward. OK? Here we go.

- **I just heard about a man who tried to steal an electric guitar by putting it down his pants and walking out of a store with it. Do you doubt that's true?**  
[<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/bizarre/5672065.html>]
- **Have you ever doubted anything your brother or sister said to you?**
- **Do you think it's ever OK to doubt what your teacher says?**
- **I just heard that lawmakers in Arkansas passed a law last year that would allow toddlers to get married. Do you doubt it?**  
[<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/bizarre/5670906.html>]
- **Scientists say humans are causing global warming. Do you doubt it?**  
[<http://people-press.org/reports/display.php3?ReportID=303>]
- **Do you think that it's ever OK to doubt what your preacher says?**
- **Your science teacher says that people evolved from other species. Do you doubt it?** [<http://www.expelledthemovie.com/video.php>]
- **Do you ever have doubts about God?**

Now that your kids have gotten the wiggles out by hopping across the room, regroup and have them sit down to talk about doubt.

Lesson 7  
Memory Verse

Now faith is being sure  
of what we hope for  
and certain of what we  
do not see.

—Hebrews 11:1

- **Is it hard or easy to admit that you have doubts about silly things like foolish guitar thieves or ridiculous laws?**
- **Was it hard for any of you to admit that you have doubts about important things like God or what your preacher tells you?**
- **Do you think that there are some things that are *not* OK to have doubts about? What would those things be?**
- **Do you ever have doubts that scare you? What are they?**

No matter what you've been told, having doubts is normal! But sometimes it's not a fun experience. And sometimes we feel like we *shouldn't* have doubts, but we have them anyway.

Thankfully, there are plenty of doubters in the Bible. Today, we're going to read about one of them—his name was Thomas. He took his doubts straight to Jesus, and so can we!

(Continue on to steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*. Your step 4 appears below.)

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# Just for Doubters

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**STEP 4**Lesson 7  
**Focus:**Take your doubts to  
Jesus.Lesson 7  
**Bible Basis:**

John 20:19-29

End your time together with this conversation:

- Can any of you think of a time in the past when you had a big doubt, and you dared to pray about it and maybe talk with a wise adult about it?
- What was the doubt?
- What happened when you took it to Jesus?

**O**ften, when we have doubts and we take them straight to Jesus, He helps us to face those doubts and learn some new things about Himself. Each time we face a new doubt, we learn that there is nothing in the world that can ever disprove God, or His goodness, or His power, or His love for us.

When we discover this good news, something amazing happens: The very thing we doubted becomes a very strong part of our faith. It's then that we can say this week's memory verse: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

(The concept discussed above is vital for teens to learn as they mature in their faith, but it is a little heady, especially for young teens. You, as a teacher, can help them to grasp it by sharing from your own experience a time when you doubted, faced your doubt, and grew in your faith as a result.)

It wouldn't be quite right for us to *talk* about taking our doubts to Jesus without actually doing it. So let's practice right now!

Ask students to pair up with someone they trust. **Each of you, turn to your partner and share one doubt that's bothering you right now.** (Pause for a few minutes to allow this to happen.) Now, **think about the doubt that your friend just shared with you.**

- **Can you think of any Bible verses that have to do with that doubt? If you can, share those with each other right now.**

(Pause again.)

Lesson 7  
**Memory Verse**

Now faith is being sure  
of what we hope for  
and certain of what we  
do not see.

—Hebrews 11:1

Let's finish up our time together by praying for each other. Each of you, pray for your friend and the doubt that he or she shared. Pray that each person would have the courage to take doubts straight to Jesus. Ask Jesus to take those doubts and turn them into faith.

When students have had a few minutes to pray for each other, pray for them collectively before you dismiss them.

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