



Group Discussion Guide – Week 3: Avoiding the Exit Ramp

Key Scripture: Matthew 11:1–11, Mark 6:17–20, Matthew 4:12–13

INTRO – Set the Tone

Say something like:

“Sometimes life hands us a circumstance that doesn't fit our theology. Maybe you've heard someone say, 'Everything happens for a reason' or 'God must be teaching you something.' But when suffering hits close to home, even the strongest faith can shake. This week we looked at a moment when John the Baptist — Jesus' own cousin and forerunner — began to doubt. Jesus didn't scold him... He honored him.”

Then say:

“Let's open up the Scriptures and see how faith can survive even when God feels silent or inactive.”

SCRIPTURE #1: Matthew 11:1–11

 Read aloud verses 2–6 and then 11.

Q1: Why do you think John — who baptized Jesus and heard God's voice from heaven — still struggled with doubt?

Q2: What does Jesus' response (“Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me”) tell us about how He views our doubts?

Q3: How does this challenge or comfort you in your current circumstances?

SCRIPTURE #2: Mark 6:17–20

 Read the backstory of John's imprisonment.

Q4: John spoke truth to power — but it cost him his freedom. Why do you think Jesus didn't intervene?

Q5: What do we learn about Herod's conflicted heart in verses 19–20?

Q6: How does this help us understand that spiritual confusion and complexity are not new?

DISCUSSION – Real Life Application

Q7: Can you relate to John's situation — watching God "come through for others" while feeling forgotten yourself?

Q8: In your life, what are you most tempted to use as an "exit ramp" from faith?

Q9: How does it affect you to know that Jesus praised John even in his doubt?

Q10: The message said: "Sometimes you don't get answers. You just get God." What would it look like for you to hold on to God even without getting the answers you want?

QUOTE TO DISCUSS

"Happy is the one who does not confuse my silence for my absence." — Jesus (paraphrased from Matthew 11:6)

Q11: How do you distinguish between silence and absence in your relationship with God?

WRAP-UP QUESTION

Q12: What have you been holding against God? What would it look like to release that, not because you understand — but because you trust Him?

CLOSING WORD

"John didn't lose God's love when he doubted. And neither do you.

Faith isn't the absence of questions — it's choosing not to take the exit ramp when the road gets hard.

You don't have to explain the unexplainable. You don't have to find a reason for the random. You just need to know: God is still with you... even under the circumstances."

Close in prayer, thanking God for His presence in our doubt and pain.