

Jesus Never Said THAT: No Doubting Allowed

May 17, 2020

Week 5 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Matthew 11:2-6](#)

REFLECT: What was John's question to Jesus? What questions do you have for Him? [Think: Who? What? When? Why? How?] These may come to you easily or you may have stuffed them down and need to ponder for a while. Write them down. Be honest with Jesus. Surrender your questions to Him.

PRAY: *Lord, are You the One? Can I trust You with my whole life? Will You show me who you are? Will you lead me to believe, to hope, even when I cannot see? Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!* (Mark 9:24)

Day 2-

READ: [Lamentations 3](#); [Lamentations 3:22](#) (multiple versions)

REFLECT: The author of this poem is working through his questions and doubts with God. What does this poem teach you about the author? About God? What do you learn about how to wrestle, to struggle through this broken world? What do you learn about hope?

PRAY: *"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope..."* (verse 21) Ask God to strengthen your faith in who He is and to bring those truths to mind as you work through your fears, your doubts, your questions.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Understand Jeremiah's poems of grief more deeply through the Bible Project's "[How to Read Lamentations](#)" video on RightNow Media. [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here](#).]

Day 3-

READ: [Psalm 77](#)

REFLECT: *"Faith is like a muscle—it is stronger when it has weathered stress, tension, resistance, even confusion."* -Pastor Derek Sanford. No one waltzes through life without pain, without hurt. As you read

this Psalm of lament, let yourself sit in the suffering with the author. What are the cries of your heart right now? Note the repetition of the words “remember” and “meditate.” What is the author remembering? How does he allow these meditations to lead him to the declarations of verse 13-20?

WRITE & PRAY: Use Lamentations 3 and Psalm 77 as a guide to writing your own heart’s cry, your own lament. Like those authors, be honest with God while remembering who He is and what He has done. Cry out to Him in your emotion and in worship.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

REFLECT: Psalm 77:20 *“You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”* Where did Moses and Aaron lead God’s people? [[Exodus14:13-16](#)] Who is the [better Moses](#), the [better High Priest](#)? [Hebrews] Who, then, leads you by the hand?

Day 4-

READ: [Hebrews 11](#)

REFLECT: This chapter reads like a list of faith superheroes. Be observant- How is faith defined in verse 1? What circumstances did these men and women live through? For what reasons are they commended for their faith? Note: If you were to go back and read these stories in their Old Testament context you might be surprised at some of the details- Sarah laughed when God said she would get pregnant and Abraham slept with Sarah’s maid to try to guarantee a son. Moses was sure God had the wrong guy when He called Moses to return to Egypt and confront Pharaoh. And yet, here they are as examples of faith. What does this teach you about faith? About God? What if He is big enough, loves you enough to call you, lead you, strengthen you, use you even when you stumble, even when you doubt, even when you don’t *feel* like a faith hero?

PRAY: Don’t let your questions keep you from pursuing Jesus with your both your heart and your mind. Let the [cloud of witnesses](#) from Hebrews 11 encourage you to fix your eyes on Jesus, the [author and perfecter of your faith](#).

TAKE IT FURTHER!

REFLECT: *“Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.”* -[Paul Tillich](#). After reading the Word of God and reflecting in your heart and mind this week, what is your reaction to this statement?

Day 5-

READ: [Matthew 28:16-20](#); [Acts 1:6-9](#)

REFLECT: These two passages highlight Jesus’ Great Commission to His disciples? What is their mission? Note their attitude/posture in [Matthew 28:17](#). Each of these eleven men went on to share the good

news of Jesus Christ and to make more disciples, just as Jesus charged them. What will it look like for you to worship Him as the One who saves, the One true hope, even as you continue to ask questions, to grow in your faith?

PRACTICE: What questions continue to press in on you? What is rocking your faith? Don't wrestle alone and don't ask the wrong people for answers! Take a step: consider joining a [LifeGroup](#) or seek [pastoral guidance](#).

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: This engaging series of videos, "NUA," from RightNow Media looks at questions and doubts of the Christian Faith. [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here](#).]

READ: Has someone come to you with their doubts, asked you a tough question? "[Tough Questions Don't Deserve Trivial Answers](#)" from the Gospel Coalition will help you think through how you answer.