

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Luke 7:18-35

Ice Breaker: Name a place, event, or thing that far exceeded your expectations.

Ice Breaker: Name time when you were underwhelmed and something did not live up to your expectations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 7:18-35:** Who is John the Baptist? What has he done so far in Luke's gospel? Where is he now? Why do you think it would be helpful for the interpretation of this passage to know where John is and why he got there?
2. What was John's message to Jesus? Why was John asking this question? What does it reveal about John's view of Jesus?
3. Why might it be okay to say that John's doubt is a healthy doubt? What does John do with his doubt?
4. How does John's doubt and his questioning instruct us on what to do with our doubt? What does it look like for a Christian to doubt? What would be the difference between Christian doubt and worldly doubt?
5. Spend some time as a group considering some specific areas in your lives that you doubt Jesus' plan or his goodness or his kindness. Why do you doubt in these areas? What does Jesus' word say to these doubt? How can we overcome these doubts?
6. **Read Verse 21:** In the passage, how does Jesus answer John? Is this really an answer? How? What OT passages can you think of that Luke might be referencing? (Possible answers: Is. 26:19; 29:18; 35:5; 42:18)
7. In verses 24-28, Jesus speaks to the people after John's messengers leave. Who does Jesus say John is? How can those who are in the kingdom of God be 'greater' than John?
8. **Read Verses 29-35:** What are the two responses to Jesus' teaching? What is the problem with the second group? How might verses 33-34 help us answer that question?
9. What's the difference between the second group (unbelief) and John the Baptist (doubt)? How does this help us understand John better and also our own doubt better?

Application: Spend some time praying for one another, especially focusing on the discussion from question #5.