



### **OUR PURPOSE (WHY WE EXIST)**

Our reason for existence is "to make Christ known and to disciple the knowing."

### **OUR PASSIONS (WHO WE LOVE)**

*GOD, THE CHURCH, THE UN-CHURCHED*

We love God because He is uniquely beautiful, infinitely worthy, and supremely valuable. We love the church because it is more than a building; it is the "body of Christ" and the "brotherhood of the saints," a collection of redeemed men and women who find common ground in their love of Jesus. We love the un-churched because God loves the un-churched, and He wants to use us to make His love known.

### **OUR PRACTICES (WHAT WE DO)**

*WORSHIP, MINISTRY, MISSIONS*

Because we love God, we worship Him (Father, Son, and Spirit) through relevant music and engaging preaching; knowing that He alone deserves our worship. Because we love our brothers and sisters in Christ, we do ministry (acts of service by the church for the church), knowing that the world will see our love for each other as proof of our love for God. We engage in missional acts of service because we know that eternity is real and really long.

Our hope is to bring the life-changing gospel of Jesus to those who don't know God, so they can experience forgiveness, and spend eternity in grateful worship of God, instead of experiencing God's wrath in the eternal torment of Hell.

### **In God We Trust**

*Why Do We Still Have Doubts?*

A Study in James

#### **GOALS:**

1. To grow in relationship with God.
2. To grow in relationship with others.
3. To grow our groups and start new groups.

#### **INTRODUCTION (PLEASE READ ALOUD BEFORE EVERY GROUP):**

We've all been there. It's that subject no one wants to talk about in church: doubting our faith. These doubts come in a variety of ways. And, it's OK to talk about them. Some might have intellectual doubts, because we can't always answer those outside of the church. Things like "Is the Bible really the Word of God," or "why don't all paths lead to God?" There are spiritual doubts. For instance, "Am I really saved?" "How can God forgive me for THIS?" Then, there's circumstantial doubts like, "Why is my world falling apart," or "Why did I lose my job," or even, "Why isn't God answering my prayer?" These doubts are real, and no one is exempt from them. This week's study will acknowledge the fact that we all have doubts from time to time, and give us Biblical suggestions on how to get to the other side of them.

**REVIEW:** What is the current series? Why are we doing this? What is this week's title? Why is this subject important to study?

\*\*\*How have doubts caused you to lose your faith in the past or present? Why do we get doubtful in regard to our faith?

#### **Read James 1:2-4**

1. Why do you think James tells us to be joyful in our trials? What does James mean by the word "trials?" How can the "testing of [our] faith" produce endurance? What's another word for "testing?" What is the result of this testing?

#### **Read James 5:13-16**

2. According to these verses, when should we pray? Is there anything we *can't* pray for? How can others help us in our time of suffering? How does opening up to others about our doubts and struggles help us to grow? What is the effect of prayer?

#### **Read James 2:21-24**

3. What does it mean "to step out in faith?" Do you think Abraham had doubts as he approached Mt. Moriah to sacrifice his son? How did Abraham "doubt his doubts" when he offered Isaac on the altar? According to these verses, how does faith and action work together?

#### **Read James 1:12**

4. How are we blessed when we go through trials? What does God promise to those that persevere? What is meant by the "crown of life?" How is verse 12 an encouragement to you when you doubt your faith?

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – No One Goes Hungry Dinner 1-4pm

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – Membership Class 10-1pm

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – Family Fun Night 5-7pm