

## CONNECTION

- Was there something you believed to be true and then discovered it wasn't?

## OPENING PRAYER

## SCRIPTURE :

- Matthew 28:16 - 20
- John 20:24 - 29

## EXTRA RESOURCES (to prepare or share in your group):

[Alisa Childers | Is it ok to struggle with Doubt?](#)

## CONVERSATIONS:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20. The word "doubt" in ancient Greek means "*hesitate*."
  - Does it surprise you that there were disciples who had doubts (Greek: *hesitated*) even as they were standing in the presence of a risen Jesus?
  - What is Jesus' response to their hesitation?
  - How do leaders in our culture normally respond to their team when hesitation or doubt arises?
  - What other examples of hesitation in trusting the Lord do we see in the Bible? (See Genesis 17:15 / Exodus 3:10 - 12)
    - What encouragement should we find in both of these stories?
  - We see that having questions does not disqualify us from following Jesus and being on mission with him.
    - What are some of the doubts or questions you have had or still have about trusting Jesus?
    - If you have worked through those doubts or are currently working through them, how have you done that?

- Read John 20:24 - 25
  - Jonathan shared about three main reasons people have doubts:
    - 1) Cognitive dissonance--where doubt is based on a lack of academic evidence
    - 2) Experience---where doubt develops out of unmet expectations or a crisis
    - 3) Desire--doubt comes out of a desire not to have to conform to the moral code of God
  - Discuss each of these types of doubt.
    - What are some examples? Have you experienced it in your life? How does each type of doubt require a different response or solution?
- Read John 20:26 - 27.
  - Jesus left Thomas to wrestle with his doubts for a week. What benefit or purpose would God have in allowing us to wrestle with our doubts instead of simply taking them away?
  - Thomas wrestled with his doubts in the context of a relationship with the rest of the disciples who weren't doubting.
    - Do you feel that church / Community Group / Christian friends are a safe place to work through your doubts? Why or why not?
    - Read Jude 22. What does it look like to be merciful to those who doubt? What does it not look like?
    - Do you have an example of someone who was merciful to you in your season of doubt or where you had a crisis of faith?
- Read John 20:28
  - Once Thomas worked through his doubts his faith was much deeper and stronger. A.J. Swoboda writes: "Doubt is not an enemy of faith. Doubt is often the soil of faith, the place where faith is born and where it grows."
    - Why is it valuable to see doubt not as an enemy but as a potential gift?

## RIDGE REMINDERS:

- 1) Our **Women's Hike & Study** steps into gear at the end of this month! Register on line @ridgechurch.ca to join us Saturdays @10am as we explore creation and God's word together!
- 2) Our **Ridge Riders** are getting ready to roll! Register online @ridgechurch.ca to experience fun and fellowship together!
- 3) Do you like to build stuff? Just a reminder that fellas gather at the **Alouette Men's Shed** on Tues & Thurs at 9am-noon in our Ridge Church workshop. Email [AlouetteMensShed@outlook.com](mailto:AlouetteMensShed@outlook.com) or call 604-786-7404 for more information.

## RIDGE CARES:

- **RIDGE CONNECTIONS** We are building out a team of folks who would serve in the lobby and auditorium on Sunday mornings once a month intentionally welcoming and connecting with folks they do not yet know. Interested in knowing more? Please contact [Dayna@ridgechurch.ca](mailto:Dayna@ridgechurch.ca)
- Our **SYRIAN FAMILY** arrives **April 27th** and we need your **HELP!** We are inviting you to **help us welcome** Rufat & Burbank and their 3 children Loran (son 2 yrs), Stella (girl 5) and Laurisa, here is how:
  - 1) On Sunday April 30th we need help with **moving** their furniture and building a few things (ie. beds)
  - 2) Help **unpacking/setting** up (homemaking) either Sunday evening **April 30** or Monday **May 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - 3) The family still needs several things (at the end of this document) but the following is most **urgent**: (full list of needs is at the end of this document).
    - toddler car seat
    - large decent quality stock pot with lid
    - new double mattress (don't need box spring)



5) **SAVE THE DATE:** we will be hosting a **“WELCOME HOME!”** **COMMUNITY GAMES NIGHT** on **Friday May 26th** where you and yours can come out, have some fun and help us support & welcome this family to Ridge Church!

**RIDGE PRAYS:**

- PRAY that as we walk through the new sermon series, we would have freedom to express our doubts and encourage one another.
- PRAY for those in our church who are grieving the loss of loved ones and broken relationships.
- PRAY for those who are dealing with uncertainty about the future.
- PRAY for God to provide folks to walk alongside our Syrian family when they arrive.

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS:**

## OUR SYRIAN FAMILY NEEDS:

Please call or text Lori Robinson: 604-317-9054

[lorijrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:lorijrobinson@gmail.com) , Leanne Cody: 604-308-0753

[lcody@shaw.ca](mailto:lcody@shaw.ca)

### Kitchen

- Shelf liner
- Pastry Cutter
- Garlic Press
- Large stock pot/lid
- Lunch Bags x 3 - Adults
- Booster Seat for kitchen
- Food storage containers
- Small Freezer
- Pantry staples
- Superstore gift cards

### Master Bedroom

- Queen mattress pad
- Large area rug or runner
- Blankets

### Adult Bedroom

- Dresser/nightstand
- Lamp
- Double mattress – NEW
- Double mattress pad

### Child's Bedroom (girl 6 | boy 2.5)

- Dresser –white small
- Mattress pad x 2-twin
- Lamp
- Dolls

### Living Room

- Chairs x2
- Coat Rack
- Curtain rod(9ft)/panels

### Outdoor

- Outdoor welcome mat
- Bikes (Men's bike x1, Girls x 2)
- Scooter (toddler)
- Helmets (Ladies x 1, Men x 2, Girls x 1, Toddler boys helmet)
- Child carrier for bike
- Patio table-small/chairs
- Patio lights
- Folding lawn chairs(adult & child)
- Cooler
- Outdoor toys (Slide, sandbox, ride on, hard plastic pool)

### Office

- Laptops (used okay) x 2 (or \$ towards)
- Office supplies (Pens/pencils, Ruler, Stapler, Notepads, Paper,Scissors, Scotch tape Thumbtacks,Elastics, Paper clips, Permanent marker,Masking Tape, batteries)
- Rubbermaid storage containers

### Bathroom

- \*Childs hooded towel
- Toilet Brush
- Hand held Bidet
- Disposable razors (mens and womans)
- Nail clippers
- Air freshener
- Child step stool
- **Home Health**
- Basic medications (including children's) for first aid kit
- Bandaids
- Vitamins/Vitamin D

- Thermometer
- Hot water bottle
- Nighttime pull ups – girl size 6
- Diapers – Boy size 6
- Wipes

### **Miscellaneous**

- Flashlights – batteries
- Candles/matches for power outage
- Simple Tool Kit
- Sewing Kit
- Large Rubbermaids
- Humidifier
- Fire Extinguisher
- Backpacks Adult x 3
- Adult Games, Puzzles
- Christmas Decorations
- Umbrellas
- Hangers
- Toddler car seat

### **Clothing | Footwear**

- Boys clothes size 3-4
- Rain Gear - boy
- Boy shoes/boots size 9/10
- Girl clothes size 6 – 10
- Rain gear - girls
- Girl shoes/boots size- 11 & 3
- Men's clothes size L/36 waist
- Men's shoe/boot size 9.5
- Ladies clothing size L
- Ladies shoe/boot size 7