

Christian Faith: Is There Room for Doubt?

Campus Ministry Winter Retreat

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Retreat webpage:¹ www.worldvieweyes.org/retreat2015.html

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Room For Doubt is a new grant-funded program that provides learning experiences and resources to strengthen the faith of committed Christians, address the questions of those who have doubts about their Christian heritage, and represent the Christian message to those who are skeptical about its claims.

Introduction

- A. Thinking about faith and doubt — A “see saw”?
- B. Thomas (Jn 20)
- C. Don’t doubt
 - 1. Matt 21:21
 - 2. James 1:6
- D. Peter (Matt 14:22-33)

I. Growing Climate of Doubt

- A. Doubt and “churched youth.”
 - 1. Significantly doubted their faith? _____ 38%
 - 2. Felt like rejecting their parents’ faith? _____ 32%
 - 3. Can’t ask their most pressing life questions? _____ 36%
- B. Percent of churched youth “disengaged” by age 30? _____ 59%
- C. Church experience and having a “Biblical Worldview.”
 - 1. Learned Bible stories: _____ 95%
 - 2. Learned about Bible persons: _____ 92%
 - 3. Had a fun or positive experience: _____ 89%
 - 4. Those with a “Biblical worldview”: _____ 9%
- D. The “Nones”
 - 1. In America? _____ 19.3%
 - 2. 18-29 year olds in America? _____ 32%
 - 3. From “religious homes”? _____ 73%
 - 4. Religious “de-converts”? _____ 66%

II. Another Look at Scripture

- A. John the Baptist (Jn 1:19–34)
- B. Room for Doubt
- C. Matt 11:1–11

¹ The retreat webpage provides access to more complete outlines and links to slides and perhaps audio.

III. Different Kinds of Doubts

A. The _____ SOURCE of doubts.

1. _____ EMOTIONAL

2. _____ SPIRITUAL

3. _____ INTELLECTUAL

4. _____ VOLITIONAL

B. The _____ SIGNIFICANCE of doubts.

1. _____ PERIPHERAL

2. _____ CORE-BELIEF

C. The _____ SEVERITY of doubts.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

IV. You WILL be Tested

A. E.g. Richard Dawkins

B. E.g. Lawrence Krause

C. E.g. Christopher Hitchens

D. E.g. Bart Ehrman

V. Big Questions and Doubts

A. Room for Doubt survey

B. Mark 9:22-24