RIVERVIEW CHURCH

HOME-GROUP QUESTIONS

Confronting Doubt Head-On

With Pastor Mel Svendsen
November 8, 2026

Luke 7:18-23

NOTES:

QUESTION 1

John the Baptist, described by Jesus as the greatest person ever born of a woman, still wrestled with doubt while in prison -- what does this tell us about the nature of doubt and its relationship to spiritual maturity or greatness?

QUESTION 2

Jesus responded to both John's and Thomas's doubts not with rebuke but by pointing them to evidence -- how does this shape the way you think about bringing your own uncertainties and questions to God?

QUESTION 3

The sermon suggests that doubts, when approached biblically, can lead to greater growth and confirmation of faith -- can you think of a time in your own life when a period of doubt ultimately deepened your trust in God?

QUESTION 4

Jesus told his disciples to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind -- how do you personally balance intellectual inquiry and evidence-based reasoning with the kind of trusting faith that the sermon describes as 'climbing on Jesus's back'?

NOTES:

QUESTION 5

John the Baptist declared 'he must increase, I must decrease' -- in what practical ways does a person actively pursue that posture in their daily life, and what makes it so difficult?

QUESTION 6

The sermon draws a parallel between John in prison and believers around the world who are persecuted for their faith today -- how should awareness of the persecuted church shape the priorities and prayers of Christians living in relative freedom?

QUESTION 7

2 Corinthians 1:20 teaches that all of God's promises find their yes in Christ -- how does the resurrection of Jesus serve as a foundation for trusting promises that have not yet been fulfilled in your own life?

QUESTION 8

The prosperity gospel is described in the sermon as a lie that violates the testimony of Jesus and his disciples -- why do you think this message remains so appealing, and how can a church community guard against it?

QUESTION 9

The sermon uses the story of Charles Blondin to distinguish between intellectual belief and active, personal trust -- where in your own faith journey do you sense a gap between what you say you believe and what you are willing to stake your life on?

QUESTION 10

Philippians 4:6-7 promises a peace that surpasses understanding when we bring our requests to God -- why do you think so many believers, even those who know this verse well, still struggle to pray honestly about their deepest fears and doubts?