

**Doubting Beliefs, Trusting God**

**Monday, 7/6/09**– Read **Mark 4:35-41**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: The stories of Jesus in the Bible dramatically demonstrate that there is more to Jesus than the disciples grasped or understood. At the end of today’s reading they ask, “Who is this man?” ... Have you had an experience when you guessed there was more going on than you could grasp or understand? Maybe it wasn’t “religious.” Maybe it was just an experience that made you question your understanding or some belief. Describe that experience and how it felt.

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**Tuesday, 7/7/09** – Read **Mark 9:2-8**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Maybe the Bible’s most breathtaking portrayal of Jesus is the transfiguration -- where, for a moment, the divine seems to shine through the human. The disciples had no good words for this experience. Today’s reading says that Peter’s outburst about making dwellings is the result of his not knowing what else to say! ... When have you had an experience when you just had no good words to describe it. Maybe it was an experience of beauty ... or of tender closeness with another person ... or something else. Remember that experience and see if you can feel back into it.

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**Wednesday, 7/8/09** – Read **Psalms 8:1-9**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: The Bible knows that God is beyond our grasp, beyond our ability to conceptualize. And yet God still values and engages with us humans. Read through Psalm 8 slowly and reflectively. What feelings does it evoke for you? Do you have the sense of awe and wonder that the Psalm-writer is pointing to? What experiences put you in touch with that awe and wonder?

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**Thursday, 7/9/09** – Read **Proverbs 3:5-6**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Don’t take this proverb wrong. It is not saying we shouldn’t think or strive for understanding. The proverbs themselves **are** a striving for wisdom and understanding. But today’s verses are the simple acknowledgement that trusting God is not the same thing as understanding God. ... How does that work for you? Does your inability to understand God ever get in the way of trusting God? Do your beliefs (or the church’s beliefs) ever get in your way? For you, how is trusting God different than understanding God?

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**Friday, 7/10/09** – Read **John 4:31-38**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Again, the disciples don’t “get it.” Jesus is talking about SOMETHING MORE that the disciples don’t yet understand. ... Sometimes what’s important is just realizing that there is something more that we don’t yet understand. Perhaps we’ll live into the understanding later -- as the disciples did. ... Do you sense that there is a “something more” happening in your life these days that you don’t yet fully

grasp? Can you point to it? Are you willing to trust it as the activity of God?

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**Saturday, 7/11/09 – Read John 16:12-15**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Probably it was hard for Jesus' disciples to hear him say this -- that there were other things to say but they were not ready to "bear them now." Jesus was always pointing the disciples beyond what they could readily and easily understand. Trusting God means being open to growing into what we cannot now understand. ... Can you remember a time in your life when God led you into something that at an earlier age you couldn't have borne?

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**Sunday, 7/12/09 – Read John 14:1-3**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Jesus is very clear in today's reading: believing/trusting/having-faith is about a trusting relationship with God, a relationship with Jesus. The focus of faith is not our beliefs themselves but the Person that these beliefs point to. ... In your prayer today, see if you can communicate with that Divine Person who wants relationship with you. See if you can step beyond just believing in God to communicate with the Personal God your beliefs point to. Maybe take a moment to write down your prayer.

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*My Faith Journal*, July 5, 2009

Believing in God #2

## ***Doubt***

**Doubting beliefs isn't the same thing as doubting God.**

### **Trusting a Person**

**who is always more than we understand.**

Mark 9:2-8 – The Transfiguration

**Results of NOT making room for doubt.**

**Trusting God's grip on us.**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*