

# BAD TAKES

Life Group discussion guide, week 2

## KEY PASSAGES:

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

**Ephesians 4:25** Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

**2 Corinthians 4:2** We use no trickery, and we do not change the teaching of God. We teach the truth plainly, showing everyone who we are. Then they can know in their hearts what kind of people we are in God's sight.

**Psalms 13:1** How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

**John 1:27** "He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

**Luke 7:20** "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

**Luke 7:28** "I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John."

**John 11:8** "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

**John 11:16** Then *Thomas* said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

**John 20:25-29** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**John 20:30-31** Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Mark 9:22-24** "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. Everything is possible for one who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"

## QUESTIONS:

1. Like the constant inclusion of cream of mushroom soup in recipes that Ethan joked about Sunday, share one conventionally accepted food practice that you think is a 'bad take.'
2. Every human being has a degree of faith in daily life--for example, we have faith our car's brakes are going to work without performing a comprehensive inspection before every time we pull out of the driveway. What examples can you think of where we exercise faith like this in our daily moments?
3. What are your thoughts / observations about "blind faith" when it comes to following Jesus?
4. Three sources of doubt were discussed in the message: Intellectual barriers, religious baggage / unhealthy teaching, and negative life experiences. If there has been a time in your life where you have struggled with doubt and hesitation in your faith through any of these ways, talk about that.
5. Hebrews 11 contains a long list of individuals who exhibited great faith--and also great weakness and great doubt. We also looked at examples of David through the Psalms, John the Baptist, Thomas and others. What Bible characters who struggled with doubt and weakness can you most identify with and why?
6. Read the Mark 9 passage above where a father had a son who was in bad shape, and he asked Jesus to help. How do you make sense of the father's cry "I do believe; help my unbelief!"
7. In John 20:30-31, John clues his readers in to what we can do with our doubts--how we can continually go back to the Gospel accounts to, as Ethan said, "let Jesus speak for Himself." Pray together about what ways you can do this in the coming weeks.