

“Fear of God Not Being Real”

**Unanswered questions lead to fearful lives,
and insurmountable doubts about God.**

Insurmountable mountains of doubts:

Suffering

Science

New Atheism

Other Religions

Experience with Christianity

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, What are you discussing together as you walk along? They stood still, their faces downcast.” Luke 24:13-17 (NIV)

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!" ... ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:25,27 (NIV)

**Answered questions lead to fearless lives,
and an insurmountable faith in God.**

“While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.” Luke 24:36-40 (NIV)

The Emmaus Formula : Get close + Learn my story

Small Group Questions

1. Pastor Doug talked about 5 major mountains of doubt (Suffering, Science, Atheism, Other Religions, and Experience with Christianity). Which one or ones do you most commonly struggle with and in what way? How has that struggle reinforced the idea that "unanswered questions lead to fearful lives, and insurmountable doubts about God."
2. What is meant by the line "we are all three short days away from being a skeptic"? Do you believe that is true? Why or why not?
3. The sermon introduced "the Emmaus Formula" (Get close + Learn my story. The result is a fearless life and insurmountable faith). How do we see that formula play out in Luke 24 (all the disciples and the two on the road to Emmaus) and John 20 (Thomas' story)?
4. What would it look like for you to test the Emmaus formula... to take Jesus up on his offer when he says to us: "Get Close. Learn My Story."?