



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide
The God Box – Part 1
LEADER GUIDE

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C's of Small group health:

CONTENT - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

CONSISTENCY - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

CCARE - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

CELEBRATION - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

COMMISSION - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

CHARACTER - *as a leader – growing in my example for my group*

ICE BREAKER:

- Share something about yourself that might be surprising or "unexpected" to others in your group.
- When you were a child, share one word that you would have used to describe God.

INTO THE WORD:

- 1) What part of this weekend's message was most challenging, exciting, or comforting to you?
- 2) How did you "see" more of Who God is (either in terms of something new or fresh about Him or something about Him that you were reminded of)?

Read John 20:24-31

- a) Describe Thomas' doubts in terms of his God-box (or his wrong expectations).
- b) How can doubt actually be a way to bust through our misperceptions or wrong expectations about God?
- c) In verse 27, what specifically is Jesus commanding Thomas to believe?
Teaching Tip: Jesus is inviting belief & trust in Himself. He is not asking Thomas to believe in an idea or a piece of information, but in Himself.
- d) How is Jesus more like an idea or tradition to you, than a living Person?
- e) How does verse 29 challenge you to repent for areas of unbelief in your life?

APPLY THE WORD:

- 3) Lately in your walk with God, has God been more of an idea and a belief to you or a living, powerful, and eternally good Person?
- 4) In the story of the Emmaus disciples (Luke 24:13-35), the disciples' interactions with Jesus follows 3 distinct stages: #1-Jesus is unrecognizable in their life situation; #2-They are curious and intrigued by Jesus; #3-They are in awe of Jesus because He is alive! Think about your life. What stage are you in? How can you move to increase your awe of Him?

PRAYER TIME:

- Spend some time as a group praying for any guests that attended Rock Bridge with you. Encourage each other to help these guests meet people, develop friendships, and get connected.
- Also, share anyone in your life right now who thinks of God more as an idea than a Person. Pray for God to "open their box" and to use you to show them the living Jesus.