

Steps To Christ

Study Guides

Chapter 12

What to Do with Doubt

Lesson Preparation

1. Memorize Matthew 16:26, NJKV.

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

2. Read *Steps to Christ*, Chapter 12.
3. Put in your own words, or write the passage in Chapter 12, that best describes the theme of the chapter.



4. List several key points as you read the chapter.



Scriptures (NKJV)

1. What two types of people come to and go from the truth?

John 3:20-21. “²⁰ For everyone [redacted] [redacted] hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

2. What counsel did Jesus give regarding the light?

John 12:35-36. “³⁵ Then Jesus said to them, ‘A little while longer the light is with you. [redacted] while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have light, [redacted] in the light, that you may become sons of light.’ These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.”

3. What results from love or hate?

1 John 2:10-11. “¹⁰ He who [redacted] his brother abides in the [redacted], and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But he who [redacted] his brother is in [redacted] and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

4. What warning is given?

Hebrews 3:12. “[redacted], brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of [redacted] in departing from the living God;”

5. What gives fellowship with other believers?

1 John 1:7. “But if we [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

6. What change to our present condition will be made?

1 Corinthians 13:12. “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].”

7. In whom does the Lord have no pleasure?

Hebrews 10:38. “Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* [redacted] [redacted], My soul has no pleasure in him.”

8. What eventually happens to those who doubt the truth, and don't make a choice for it?

1 John 2:19. “They [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

9. What condition makes understanding truth possible?

John 7:17. “If anyone wills [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.”

10. What is the reason the unrighteous will perish?

2 Thessalonians 2:10. “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], that they might be saved.”

11. What happens to those who choose not to receive the truth?

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12. “¹¹ And for this reason God will send them [redacted] [redacted], that they should [redacted] [redacted] [redacted],
¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

12. What restrains our desire to speculate?

Deuteronomy 29:29. “The [redacted] [redacted] *belong* to the LORD our God, but those *things which are revealed belong* to us and to our children forever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.”

13. Why do some have trouble with Paul’s writings?

2 Peter 3:16. “as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which [redacted] and [redacted] *people* [redacted] to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.”

14. Why will some believers leave the truth?

1 Timothy 4:1. “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to [redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted] of [redacted],”

Study Questions

1. God never asks us to believe without supplying this on which to base our faith. (Paragraph 2).

2. What three things about God are established by testimony that appeals to our reason? (2).

3. What is true regarding the possibility of doubt? (2).

4. What should our faith rest on? (2).

5. How much can we understand of God's purposes? (4).

6. List some mysteries that we can never fully comprehend. (5).

7. What happens the more you search the Bible? (7).

8. What is Satan's work? (9).

9. How do some people react when they don't understand? (9).

10. What has been a cause of doubt and perplexity to many? (9).

11. Through whom do we obtain understanding of God's word? (11).

12. What must we do if we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding? (12).

13. When will Bible study strengthen skepticism? (13).

14. When are people liable to err in their understanding of scripture? (13).

15. What is usually the real cause of doubt and skepticism? (14).

16. What is usually the real cause of doubt and skepticism? (14).

17. What should we do in order to understand and perform duties of which we are now in doubt? (15).

18. Describe the evidence of experience. (16).

19. How can we know the Bible is true, that Christ is the Son of God? (17).

20. What do we need to do more of when praying? (28). How do we obtain a clearer understanding of His word? (18).

21. When is the time when all things hard to explain or understand will be made known? (19).

Thought Questions

1. Why do I always feel insecure about my Christian experience?

2. How can I help others to believe the Bible?

3. Why do some brilliant Bible students end up believing false doctrine?

4. How can I know if those whom I hear teaching the Bible are really telling the truth?

5. What do I do if I find my teacher at school is placing doubts in the minds of the other students?

6. How can so many people who spend their whole life studying the Bible differ so greatly on what they believe?

7. I have not been able to trust anyone, why should I trust God?

8. Will Satan ever suggest wrong meanings about the Bible to me?

9. Why do I have to pray before I study?

10. I seem plagued by doubts. They won't go away.

11. I like to read science magazines, but they are filled with the theory of evolution. Should I read them?

12. It's hard to hold on to my faith. All of my friends and relatives have good reasons why the Bible is not true. What Can I do?

13. I just know it's true. I have a good feeling about it.


14. Jesus spoke to me last night in a dream, and told me what to believe. I don't need the Bible to help me believe.



15. Why do I always have a distrusting and resentful spirit toward those who are spiritually successful?



16. Why do those who believe wrong doctrine find it so hard to change their beliefs when shown the truth?



17. [Add your questions].



Problem Solving

The following teenage girl attends a public school, and is doing well in her studies. She seems to be well adjusted to all the changes in her life, but her real problem is the world is pulling on her spiritual life. She is facing more and more pressure from her friends to be involved in parties, Friday night events, sports, etc. Her parents see the danger, but she doesn't want to listen, fearing rejection by her friends. She doesn't want to end up alone. What would you do to help her not leave God's plan for her life?

Notes: (You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply).



Additional Exercises

1. Add three more things to your “Appreciation List.”



2. Additional reading:

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 672-676.

“The Nature and Influence of the Testimonies”

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 281-290.

“The Exodus”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 427-438.

“God Will Provide”

The Great Controversy, pp. 518-530.

“Snares of Satan”

3. Study the topic of the “unpardonable sin.”



4. Find examples of church leaders that entertained doubts, and describe what happen to them. (For example: Kellogg, Jones, Canright, Ballenger, Waggoner)



5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.



Done (if using another source to keep this information)

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Done

Ellen G. White Quotations

“There is nothing that he [Satan] desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His word. Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. It is becoming fashionable to doubt. There is a large class by whom the word of God is looked upon with distrust for the same reason as was its Author—because it reproves and condemns sin. Those who are unwilling to obey its requirements endeavor to overthrow its authority. They read the Bible, or listen to its teachings as presented from the sacred desk, merely to find fault with the Scriptures or with the sermon. Not a few become infidels in order to justify or excuse themselves in neglect of duty. Others adopt skeptical principles from pride and indolence. Too ease-loving to distinguish themselves by accomplishing anything worthy of honor, which requires effort and self-denial, they aim to secure a reputation for superior wisdom by criticizing the Bible. There is much which the finite mind, unenlightened by divine wisdom, is powerless to comprehend; and thus they find occasion to criticize. There are many who seem to feel that it is a virtue to stand on the side of unbelief, skepticism, and infidelity. But underneath an appearance of candor it will be found that such persons are actuated by self-confidence and pride. Many delight in finding something in the Scriptures to puzzle the minds of others. Some at first criticize and reason on the wrong side, from a mere love of controversy. They do not realize that they are thus entangling themselves in the snare of the fowler. But having openly expressed unbelief, they feel that they must maintain their position. Thus they unite with the ungodly and close to themselves the gates of Paradise.

“God has given in His word sufficient evidence of its divine character. The great truths which concern our redemption are

clearly presented. By the aid of the Holy Spirit, which is promised to all who seek it in sincerity, every man may understand these truths for himself. God has granted to men a strong foundation upon which to rest their faith.

“Yet the finite minds of men are inadequate fully to comprehend the plans and purposes of the Infinite One. We can never by searching find out God. We must not attempt to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain behind which He veils His majesty. The apostle exclaims: ‘How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!’ Romans 11:33. We can so far comprehend His dealings with us, and the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern boundless love and mercy united to infinite power. Our Father in heaven orders everything in wisdom and righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. He will reveal to us as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know, and beyond that we must trust the Hand that is omnipotent, the Heart that is full of love.

“While God has given ample evidence for faith, He will never remove all excuse for unbelief. All who look for hooks to hang their doubts upon will find them. And those who refuse to accept and obey God's word until every objection has been removed, and there is no longer an opportunity for doubt, will never come to the light.

“Distrust of God is the natural outgrowth of the unrenewed heart, which is at enmity with Him. But faith is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and it will flourish only as it is cherished. No man can become strong in faith without a determined effort. Unbelief strengthens as it is encouraged; and if men, instead of dwelling upon the evidences which God has given to sustain their faith, permit themselves to question and cavil, they will find their doubts constantly becoming more confirmed.

“But those who doubt God's promises and distrust the assurance of His grace are dishonoring Him; and their influence, instead of drawing others to Christ, tends to repel them from Him. They are unproductive trees, that spread their dark branches far and wide, shutting away the sunlight from other plants, and causing them to droop and die under the chilling shadow. The lifework of these persons will appear as a never-ceasing witness against them. They are sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism that will yield an unfailing harvest.

“There is but one course for those to pursue who honestly desire to be freed from doubts. Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which they do not understand, let them give heed to the light which already shines upon them, and they will receive greater light. Let them do every duty which has been made plain to their understanding, and they will be enabled to understand and perform those of which they are now in doubt.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 526-528).

“When once men have admitted doubt and unbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, they are strongly tempted to adhere to the opinions which they have avowed before others. Their theories and notions fix themselves like a gloomy cloud over the mind, shutting out every ray of evidence in favor of the truth. The doubts indulged through ignorance, pride, or love of sinful practices, rivet upon the soul fetters that are seldom broken. Christ, and He alone, can give the needed power to break them.” (*Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, p. 46).

“Satan works on human minds, leading them to think that there is wonderful knowledge to be gained apart from God. By deceptive reasoning he led Adam and Eve to doubt God's word, and to supply its place with a theory that led to disobedience. And his sophistry is doing today what it did in Eden. Teachers who mingle the

sentiments of infidel authors with the education they are giving, plant in the minds of youth thoughts that will lead to distrust of God and transgression of His law. Little do they know what they are doing. Little do they realize what will be the result of their work.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 108).

“It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God’s people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 211).

QUIZ – 12

Select True or False according to the reference:

1. T F The main reason for doubt and skepticism is the fear of God. (SC 12.14).
2. T F Our faith must rest on demonstration. (SC 12.2).
3. T F It is possible to strengthen skepticism while studying the Bible. (SC 12.13).
4. T F Some people feel impatient and defeated if they cannot explain every portion of Scripture. (SC 12.9).
5. T F It is impossible for finite minds fully to comprehend the character and the works of God. (SC 12.3).

Use one or more words to answer the following:

6. What does God desire for mankind to exercise in their study of the Bible? (SC 12.12).

7. List one mystery in the word of God that we can never fully comprehend. (SC 12.5).

8. What two things do we need to have in order to arrive at the truth? (SC 12.14).

9. When will I have a clear understanding of all that is not understood now? (1 Corinthians 13:12).

10. What condition will false doctrine cause in the last days? (1 Timothy 4:1).

Select the option button of the best answer according to the text.

11. What happens to those who doubt and refuse to believe the truth? (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

- Stop trying to believe anything
- Don't know what they believe
- Believe the truth, but cannot get new light
- Believe a lie

12. What agency is the greatest aid to Bible study? (SC 12.11).

- A Bible commentary
- A Bible concordance
- The Holy spirit
- A knowledge of Hebrew and Greek

13. Which Bible writer had many things that were difficult to understand? (2 Peter 3:16).
- Peter
 - John
 - Paul
 - Moses
14. What happens to those who do nothing but pray? (SC 11.24).
- See and increase in answered prayer
 - Soon cease to pray
 - Gain the respect of the angels
 - Acquire great power over other people
15. Complete the following passage:
- "God never asks us to [redacted] without giving sufficient [redacted] upon which to base our [redacted]." (SC 12.2).