

Advent



WK OF 12/14/25 **WHEN JESUS DOESN'T FIT THE SCRIPT—TRUST HIM ANYWAY** MT. 11:2-15

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Matthew 11:2–15

Group Devotional

Is doubt normal? It is certainly in human nature to doubt. Even the great John the Baptist had a moment of uncertainty (Matthew 11:3). The good news about doubt: God doesn't scold us for doubting. Instead, he shows us evidence that He is God. This week's passage invites us to wait with God in this Advent season—rather than muddle through—while His plan unfolds.

1. In what ways has God fulfilled his promises to you in the past? Write a list to review different moments of doubt you have had.
2. *Matthew 11:7–10* | Though John the Baptist had a moment of uncertainty, his faithfulness shines through his life of ushering in the coming of a Savior who would judge Israel and establish God's kingdom. John preached a message of repentance and readying oneself for the coming Messiah, a faithfulness Jesus recognized in these verses. Though John may not have been well-dressed (clothes of camel hair, a style worn by nomads), nor did he have a wife, children, or wealth, Jesus saw a man who committed his life to God's purpose.
3. How have you responded in faithfulness to a difficult situation?
4. Describe a decision you made for which you chose God's way.

Matthew 11:11–15 | Like John the Baptist, we are great because God made us so, and to achieve true greatness requires true faithfulness. This means we do as He asks even when the world does not agree. We live for Him, even when the world rebels against Him. We choose His whispers over the screams of the world. In all, we manage our expectations according to His plan, not our own.

5. How have God's expectations exceeded your own?

6. What is an expectation you may want to rid your life of in order to better follow God?

In this Advent season, if you're doubting that Jesus is the One who is to come, look to the script writer himself. The Word says a messenger would be sent to pave the way for the Messiah, and John the Baptist fulfilled that prophecy. The Word also says God's Son would undergo death, burial and resurrection, and it was so. This week's **Big Idea – *When Jesus doesn't fit the script, trust Him anyway*** – reminds us to open our eyes to see the evidence of His greatness. For when we do, we'll see that faithfulness measures our success and that only God can give us a Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

7. Where do you see yourself in this story? What is the "thing" (i.e., situation, hardship, opportunity, etc.) that causes you to ask, "Are you the One who is to come—or should we look for another?"

Pray

Lord, thank you that our doubts can help us grow closer to you and become better servants. Help us to put aside our life's script and instead choose your plan, for it is your plan that says we have succeeded in our faithfulness. Make us like John the Baptist who was faithful in all circumstances. In your name we pray. Amen.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)