



# CONNECT

SERIES

CONNECT WITH YOUR FAITH

CLASS III



# ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS WE ALL HAVE

## HOW TO DEAL WITH DOUBT

### Three Types of Doubt

1

#### Assurance Doubt

*I don't feel saved  
or forgiven.*

2

#### Circumstantial Doubt

*I can't feel God's  
Presence, and he is  
not answering  
my prayers.*

3

#### Intellectual Doubt

*What If I don't  
believe all the  
Bible stories?*

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

– Revelation 3:20

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

– John 10:28



rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”<sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

*Romans 8:15-16*

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

*Psalms 145:4*

<sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again;



Even Billy Graham wrestled with believing all of scripture to be true. In his biography, he says, “The particular intellectual problem I was wrestling with, for the first time since my conversion as a teenager, was the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures. Seeming contradictions and problems with interpretation defied intellectual solutions, or so I thought. Could the Bible be trusted completely?” In the face of his doubts about the Bible, Billy Graham read the Bible. “I read every verse of Scripture I could think of that had to do with “thus saith the Lord.” I recalled hearing someone say that the prophets had used the phrase “the Word of the Lord said” (or similar wording) more than two thousand times. I had no doubts concerning the deity of Jesus Christ or the validity of the Gospel, but was the Bible completely true? If I was not exactly doubtful, I was certainly disturbed. I pondered the attitude of Christ toward the Scriptures. He loved those sacred writings and quoted from them constantly. Never once did He intimate that they could be wrong. In fact, He verified some of the stories in the Old Testament that were the hardest to believe, such as those concerning Noah and Jonah.”

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Which type of doubt are you most likely to struggle with – assurance of salvation, intellectual doubt, or circumstantial doubt?



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Do you tend to rely on your feelings and begin to doubt God's presence when you don't feel him? How can you move from feelings of doubt to confidence?



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How is unbelief different from doubt? If doubt is not the opposite of faith, what is?



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Is it comforting to hear that Billy Graham struggled with believing the Bible? Is it surprising to learn that he resolved his doubts by studying the Bible?



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## TAKE AWAY

DOUBT IS A NORMAL PART OF  
 OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

It is good to question but it is important to seek diligently to find your answers. Read and talk with educated followers that have faith to get your questions answered.

GOD IS PATIENT AND GRACIOUS WITH DOUBTERS.

You will doubt a facet of your faith at some point in your Christian journey. Be prepared and be encouraged by others who've overcome this season in their lives.



# DOES JESUS HEAL TODAY?

## KEY THEMES

1

Jesus heals our emotional pain

2

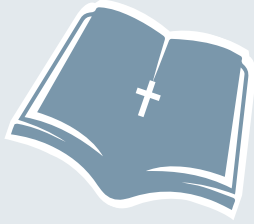
Jesus heals our physical pain

3

Jesus instructs his disciples to heal others



## KEY SCRIPTURE



And the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

- Luke 6:19

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Matthew 9:36

who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- Philippians 3:21

*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*

*Matthew 4:23*





# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where have you seen God's healing in your life? Was it different than how you imagined it would happen?



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What does it mean to cooperate with God to allow Him to heal us?



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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do we need to pray for healing for ourselves and others? Is that hard for you?



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How do we stay faithful when God does not heal as we expect?



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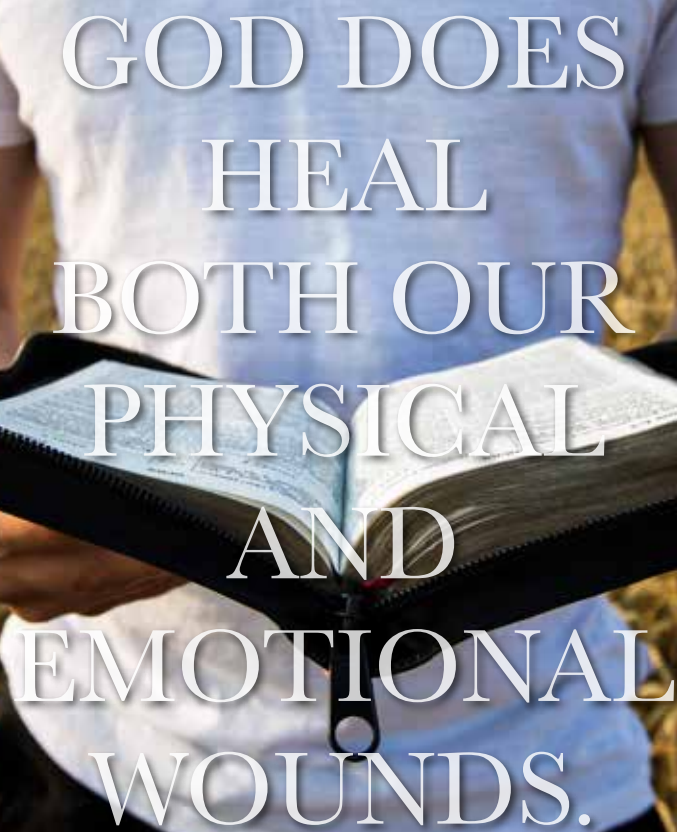
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A person wearing a white t-shirt is holding an open Bible in a black zippered case. The person is standing in a field of golden wheat. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

# GOD DOES HEAL BOTH OUR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WOUNDS.

But, we need to cooperate with God to allow Him to heal us. His healing is a foretaste of what is to come when we die and receive our perfect, eternal bodies. Christians have a responsibility to pray and support others needing healing.

# HEALING R AT MOUN

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one, confidential ministry focused on listening, caring, and providing support during life's challenges. When you need someone that is not quite as close to the situation you are in, a Stephen Minister can be there as a third party who will listen with no judgment toward you, your situation, or others involved in your situation, you meet with your Stephen Minister once a week for an hour. Stephen Ministers are placed with a care receiver of the same gender and you are your Stephen Minister's only care receiver. Care receivers may be going through challenges such as:

- Divorce
- Illness
- Terminal illness of a loved one
- Spiritual confusion or frustration
- Caregiving
- Empty nest adjustments
- Forgiveness issues
- New baby
- A significant loss
- Other life changes

In addition, there are other services, such as, GriefShare, Divorce Care, and Healing is a Choice.

To get help or serve in our caring ministry please  
Call **678.336.3231** or email **[caring@mountpisgah.org](mailto:caring@mountpisgah.org)**



# RESOURCES AT PISGAH

## SUMMIT COUNSELING CENTER

Summit Counseling Center provides discounted counseling based on income and need. They can help with addiction, adultery, depression, anxiety, abuse, loss, suicide, trauma, and much more.

***[summitcounseling.org](http://summitcounseling.org)***

***678.893.5300***

***[info@summitcounseling.org](mailto:info@summitcounseling.org)***

*They have many locations in Roswell, Dunwoody, Johns Creek, Alpharetta and Cumming.*



# STUDYING THE BIBLE

## KEY THEMES

### 1

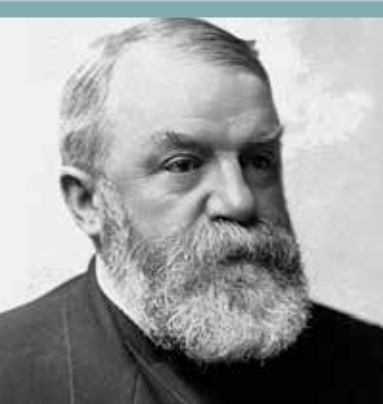
The Bible is one of the primary ways we know God

### 2

The Bible teaches us how to live

### 3

The Bible is complex, and we need to study it with others



D. L. Moody, the great evangelist and Christian educator in the late 19th century, summed up the Bible's purpose,

*The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.*



# BIBLE FACTS

THE BIBLE IS A  
**COHERENT STORY,**  
WRITTEN BY **40 AUTHORS,**  
**IN THREE LANGUAGES,**  
**IN SIXTY-SIX BOOKS,**  
OVER 1,500 YEARS.

THERE ARE **39 BOOKS**  
**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**  
*(WRITTEN BEFORE JESUS' BIRTH)*  
**AND 27 BOOKS**  
**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
*(BEGINS WITH THE BIRTH OF CHRIST).*

THE BIBLE IS THE  
**MOST READ BOOK IN**  
**THE WORLD**  
AND TO DATE HAS BEEN  
**TRANSLATED INTO**  
**1,521 LANGUAGES.**

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-18

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

- Luke 24:45

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

- Psalms 1:1-2

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed by them if you do them.

- John 13:17

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do you think your life might change as a result of a daily quiet time?



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Is there a difference in reading books written about the Bible and studying the Bible?



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What has worked for you in studying the Bible?



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How did you get started in reading the Bible?



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# WHY DO I NEED CHURCH?

## CHURCH IS ABOUT COMMITMENT LIKE MARRIAGE



The essence of marriage is relationships not a wedding or the ring. At the heart of marriage is the unifying of two people for a lifetime.

SIMILARLY,  
AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH IS  
**SOMETHING FAR MORE PROFOUND**  
THAN PEWS, CHOIRS, PROGRAMS,  
AND PASTORS. IT IS AN INWARD SIGN  
OF COMMITMENT TO GOD.



# KEY SCRIPTURE

<sup>12</sup>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

<sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup>Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he

wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

– *1 Corinthians 12:12-20*

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

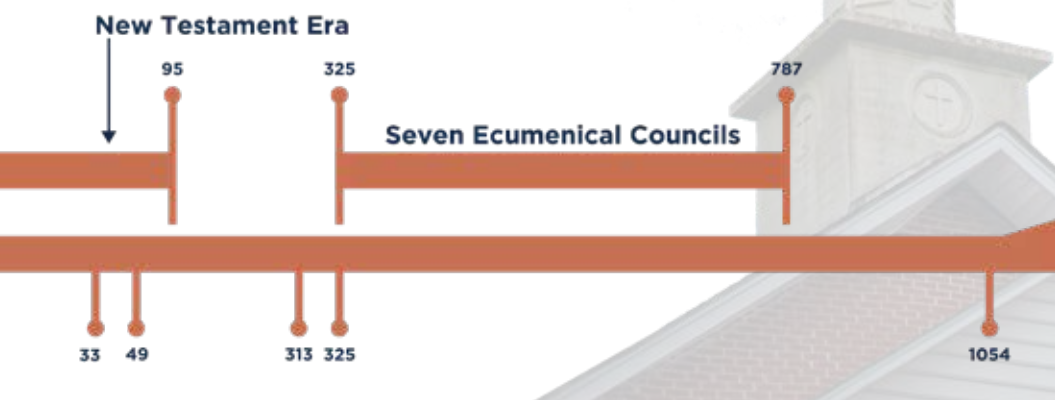
– *Ephesians 5:25-27*

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his *household*,

– *Ephesians 2:19*

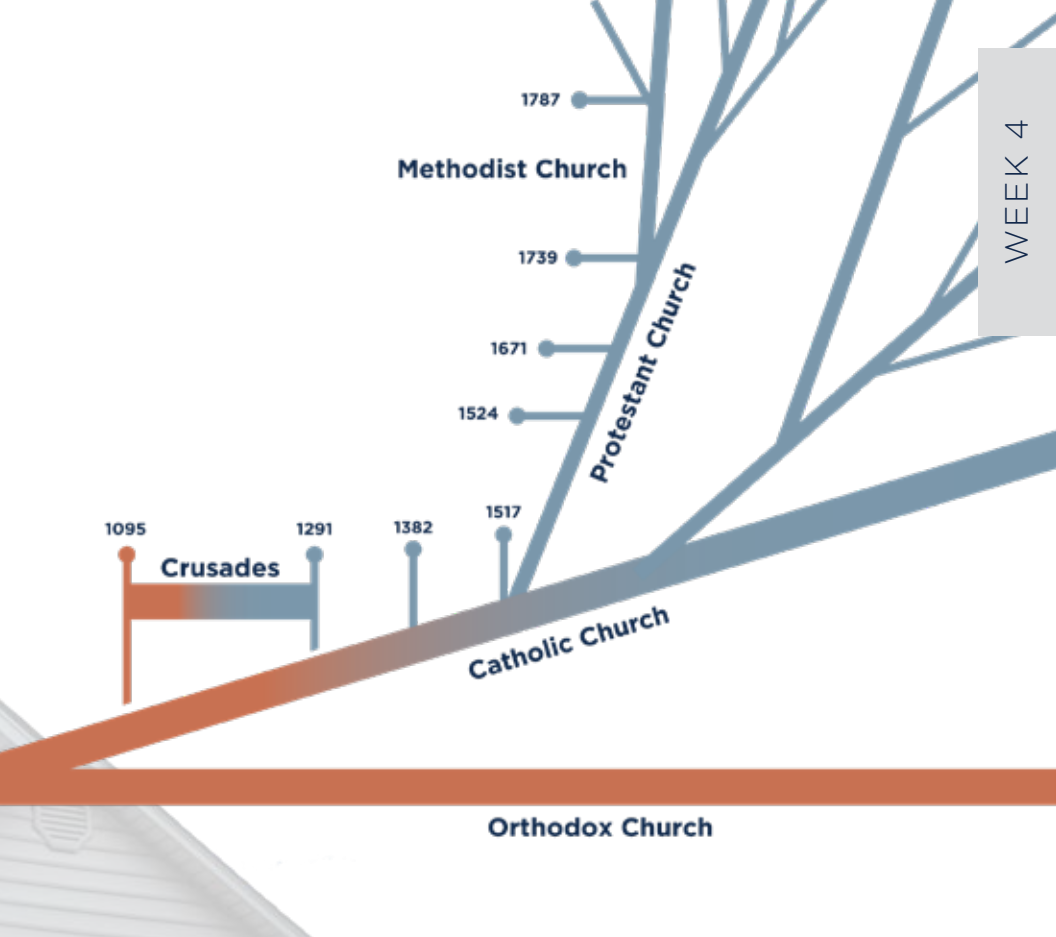
# Church History

## TIMELINE



- 33** Pentecost from Acts 2
- 49** Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15) established precedent for addressing church disputes in Council
- 95** Book of Revelation probably written
- 313** Constantine, western Roman emperor, used his power to address the status of Christians, issuing the Edict of Milan which legalized Christianity
- 325** The Council of Nicea, first of Seven Ecumenical church-wide councils, settled the major heretical challenge on the humanity of Christ
- 1054** Separation of church, which created the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox faiths, the largest denominations in Christianity





**1095** The Crusades began between Christians and Muslims to secure control of holy sites considered sacred by both groups

**1382** John Wycliffe translated the entire Bible to English

**1517** Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the door of the Church in Wittenberg, starting the Protestant Reformation

**1524** William Tyndale published the New Testament

**1671** The King James version of the Bible was printed

**1739** Methodism movement began, which sought to reform the Church of England, but eventually, started a denomination

**1787** African Methodist Episcopal Church began in Philadelphia

*The  
New Testament  
knows nothing  
of solitary religion.*

John Wesley  
Founder of Methodism



*Jesus Christ never  
wrote a book; what he  
did was leave behind a  
community: the church.*

Lesslie Newbigin

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Membership is not about a piece of paper, it is about commitment or your heart, like in a marriage
- Membership facilitates mutual accountability to God.
- Membership expresses love and obedience to Jesus

TO GET MORE  
INFORMATION OR TO  
JOIN THE CHURCH  
PLEASE CONTACT

**CONNECT@  
MOUNTPISGAH.ORG**



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If the Church has been around for over 2,000 years to represent Christ on Earth. What would happen if we did not have the Church anymore?



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The video gave 5 reasons why Jesus loved the Church (feel accepted as you are, belong to a bigger family, show the body of Christ to the world, experience the presence of God or because Jesus loved the Church like his bride). Is there one that resonates most with you?



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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In this modern day, many churches have down played membership. If membership means commitment, what is the risk to the Church as a whole and Christ's work if people are not committed?



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## TAKE AWAY

1. The Church exists because God created it, ordained it, and has called it his bride. The Church was made by Christ, not by man.
2. The Church has existed for over 2,000 years because men and women have gathered in the name of Jesus to know Him and make Christ known to the next generation
3. Membership is an outward sign of the inward commitment to God just like marriage is an outward sign of commitment.





TOGETHER,  
**WE**  
ARE THE  
**CHURCH**

STORY TOLD BY JOHN WIMBER,  
AMERICAN PASTOR

He was greeting parishioners in church and a man approached him and told him he'd been contacted by somebody in great need. As he relayed his frustration in trying to get help for this needy person, he complained, "The man needed a place to stay, food, and support until he gets on his feet and finds a job. I'm really frustrated. I tried calling the church office, but no one could see me, and they couldn't help me. I finally ended up having to let him stay with me for the week. Don't you think the church should take care of people like this?" John Wimber replied, "It looks like the church did. Because you are the church. Every time you feed the hungry, that's the church doing it. Every time you visit the sick or visit someone in prison, that's the church. Every time you share Jesus, that is an extension of the Church. We, as believers in Christ, are the Church. Not a building or the staff that work at the Church. We are the Church."

# WHAT ARE SACRAMENTS AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR US?



Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– *Matthew 28:18-20*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At

that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

– *Matthew 3:13-17*

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”





Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.

*- Mark 14:22-24*

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

*- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What have the sacraments meant in your life? How have you celebrated them in the past?



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Have you ever thought about the sacraments as a way to experience God's grace? Has your understanding changed regarding the sacraments? Please explain.



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What do you think it means when Jesus says, “Do this in remembrance of me”? Is it simply a remembrance or does it have greater meaning?



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Why do you think it was important for Jesus to ask his disciples to engage in these sacraments?



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## TAKE AWAY

THE SACRAMENTS ARE A MEANS OF  
EXPERIENCING GOD’S GRACE.

**There are two primary sacraments in the Methodist Church: Baptism and Holy Communion.**

1. When we experience the sacrament of baptism it is God at work in us through the Holy Spirit. We are not doing the work; it is God who works within us.
2. When we celebrate communion, we remember God’s love and grace upon us.

# HOW DO I FIT IN?

## THE BODY OF CHRIST





Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

- *Psalms 90:12*



And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

- *Romans 5:5*

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- *Ephesians 2:10*

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

- *Malachi 3:10*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We are all members of one body – do you feel connected to the rest of the Mount Pisgah body? How can we help you feel connected and vital?



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Where have you served in the past? What interested you about this opportunity? Was it a good fit for you?



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Is it more difficult for you to give of your time or your money?



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How have you experienced a sense of purpose or satisfaction in serving others? Can you see purpose in serving?



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**ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12  
REMINDS US THE SPIRITUAL  
LIFE IS A BATTLE,  
AND DOING LIFE TOGETHER  
PROTECTS  
AND  
STRENGTHENS US.**

Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return  
for their labor:

<sup>10</sup>If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.

<sup>11</sup>Also, if two lie down together, they will  
keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

<sup>12</sup>Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

# TAKE AWAY

**GOD** HAS GIVEN EVERYONE A  
**ROLE** AND A **PURPOSE**.

**GOD** HAS GIVEN EVERYONE **TIME**,  
**TALENT** AND **RESOURCES** AND  
HE ASKS YOU TO **GIVE BACK** A  
PORTION OF WHAT HE HAS GIVEN  
YOU TO **HELP OTHERS** AND THE  
**BODY OF CHRIST**.

WHEN WE USE OUR **TIME** ,  
**TALENT** AND **RESOURCES** FOR  
**GOD'S GLORY** WE FEEL A SENSE  
OF **PURPOSE** AND **SATISFACTION**.





# NOTES



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, starting from the top right of the pencil icon and extending across the width of the page.



# GET CONNECTED



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