

# REDEMPTION, HOPE & HEALING



## questions for reflection

### series: "Redemption, Hope & Healing"

The Bible tells the stories of many broken, damaged and dented people. Some were murders, thieves and liars, while others were prostitutes, cowards and hypocrites. The Bible recounts the stories of people whom, despite their failures and faults, God still loved and used in order to tell his story of grace, mercy and forgiveness. This summer we are going to retell these stories and seek to understand how God can bring redemption, hope, and healing into our own lives.

### part 7:

"Thomas: Skepticism"

by Jared Mackey on Tuesday July 21, 2009

What is a doubt that you have had, or currently have, about Jesus?

Read John 20.19-31

- How have you felt like Thomas and wanted to feel the reality of Jesus to believe?
- What do you see as Jesus response to Thomas skepticism and doubt?
- How does Jesus respond to others skepticism and doubt in Scriptures?

What is your story of skepticism and doubt with your faith and belief?

- Have you been honest with your own experience?
- Do you allow your faith to have room for uncertainty and doubt? Do you allow others?
- How has the church, Christian communities, been a safe place or unsafe place for your uncertainty, doubt, or skepticism?
- How have you participated in making Christian community a safe place for others questions and doubts?

"Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith." Paul Tillich

- How has your experience either confirmed or been in contrast to this quote?

"If you don't have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving." Frederick Buechner

- What doubts and questions currently keep your faith "awake and moving"?

Jared stated that we can follow the example of Thomas in our skepticism and doubt to find redemption, hope, & healing.

- Have you spoken the truth of your doubt and skepticism? To whom?
- Do you speak the truth of your faith and belief? What audience is that most difficult?
- Is it difficult to remain in a community of those who believe when you have doubts? Why?
- How can we be a community that does not shun or put on the outside those with skepticism and doubt?
- Do you have a moment in your past that seems to define you?
- How may God want to bring redemption, hope, or healing to you about your skepticism and doubt?