

Doubt | week of April 16 | What is Deconstruction? | LEADER GUIDE

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Deconstruction often starts with that nagging feeling that “something is wrong.” We can call it doubt, or skepticism, or “spidey sense,” they’re all the same thing. When doubt and deconstruction is related to our faith, it causes us to peel back all of the things we’ve learned and assess if it’s *true*. There are many reasons for breaking down what we’ve been taught; some of them are healthy and some are not.

Healthy deconstruction leads to spiritual renewal and awakening. When a whole group deconstructs in a healthy way, it can lead to revival! Healthy deconstruction leads us to the heart of God, and to understanding the righteousness he calls his people to live by in scripture. This week, the message gave an overview of deconstruction, with an example of King Josiah (2 Kings 22-23). The next three weeks we will talk about healthy deconstruction around: the institutional church, Christian politics, and “Christians” who don’t act like Jesus.

new leader tip

Deconstruction is a HUGE topic. It’s very common for people to begin to deconstruct some things they believed in a healthy way, and then wind up abandoning their faith completely. As a leader, you have the responsibility of helping people strip away some layers of things they’ve learned without losing their faith. There are a lot of excellent resources out there to help you navigate leading through deconstruction (and deconstructing in healthy ways yourself). We put together some of those resources here: <https://242community.com/doubt/> for you to utilize and share.

SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

the flow of this week lesson is:

- *Ice breaker*
- *Weekly check-in*
- *Talk about doubts and deconstruction stories you’ve been through*
- **Study 2 Kings 22-23:** *it is a long passage. We broke it up into three sections, but feel free to look it over yourself and read more or less based on what you think is best for your group.*
- *Next Steps*
- *Prayer*

go deeper

Jesus made some statements in the sermon on the mount that contained deconstruction language: “you’ve heard that it was said... but I tell you...” and “don’t practice your righteousness like the hypocrites, instead...” He made these statements about:

- *Murder (Matthew 5|21-26)*
- *Adultery (Matthew 5|27-30)*
- *Divorce (Matthew 5|31-32)*
- *Vows/Oaths (Matthew 5|33-37)*
- *Revenge (Matthew 5|38-42)*
- *How to treat your enemies (Matthew 5|43-48)*
- *Giving (Matthew 6|1-4)*
- *Prayer (Matthew 6|5-15)*
- *And fasting (Matthew 6|16-18)*

Why was it important for Jesus to help people deconstruct what they had been taught about these topics? What are some things that Jesus might want the American Church to deconstruct?

NEXT STEPS

Feel free to share this overview of the scripture if it helps with the next steps question:

The reform in 2 Kings 22-23 started with reading scripture (c. 22, v.8-10). Then the king humbled himself, confessed the sins of Israel, and repented (v.11-13). Then the king sought guidance from a prophetess (v. 14-20). Next, the king made a public commitment to the Word of God (ch.23, v.1-3). The rest of chapter 23 shows the king removing the things that led Judah into sin, and establishing practices, celebrations, and rituals that reminded the people of God's Word.

The **sequence of healthy deconstruction** here seems to be:

Read scripture -> be humbled -> confess/repent -> seek guidance on next steps -> remove the things that lead to sin -> add the things that lead to righteousness and continue to humble ourselves before God.

Based on Josiah's journey leading Judah through a period of healthy deconstruction, what's your next step in your relationship with God?

EXTRA INFO

STEP ONE | If anyone in your group hasn't attended Step One, you can find the time and RSVP [here](#).

LEAD OUT | Any leaders or apprentices or potential apprentices or anyone who might be a leader in any capacity at 2|42 should sign up for [one of these Lead Out options](#).

CAMPS | Registration for [Summer Jam](#) (current 1-4 graders), [Mix](#) (current 5-7 graders), and [Move](#) (current 8-12 graders) are open now. **Note there have been recent changes to the location for Move. If your high schooler is signed up, you should have received an email about these changes**

Check the "What's happening" button on the app, and the events page for your campus to find specific event details.

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ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What is something that you've made or built that you're proud of?

WEEKLY CHECK-IN

How have you seen God at work in your life this week?

this week's big idea: *deconstruction is part of the cycle of spiritual renewal*

What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?

SCRIPTURE + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Kings 22|1-13; 2 Kings 23|1-11; 19-25

1. *What stood out to you in this story?*
2. *What patterns did you notice in the sorts of reform Josiah instituted?*
3. *Why do you think things had gotten so bad in Judah?*
4. *How can this story serve as a warning and example for our lives?*
5. *How have doubt and deconstruction been a part of your faith journey?*
6. *What are some things you're still working through that cause doubt?*

NEXT STEPS

Based on Josiah's journey leading Judah through a period of healthy deconstruction, what do you think is your next step in your relationship with God?

PRAYER

Share group prayer requests, pray for one another and pray together for our church to be a church that is willing to go through healthy deconstruction in order to be a better example of Christ to the world.