



## The Reasons God is #Real | Doug Wekenman | 2.21-22

### Weekly Study

#### SHARE

Welcome to week 3 of **TikTok Theology**. This week we are going after something simple and solid: do you actually know the reasons you believe what you believe about God. Because faith that is only built on emotion will rise and fall with whatever life throws at you, but faith rooted in evidence can survive the heat and keep growing.

Jesus describes a kind of faith that springs up fast but does not last. In *Matthew 13*, he says some seed lands in rocky places, it grows quickly, but the roots stay shallow. When the sun comes up, it gets scorched and withers. The point is not to shame anyone for having doubts. The point is to deepen our roots so our faith is prepared for trouble, questions, opposition, and confusing seasons. **“Your soil is your responsibility.”**

Pastor Doug compared our faith to a suitcase. A lot of us carry something that looks good on the outside, the right words, the right vibe, the right Christian language. But when pressure hits, what is actually inside. If the suitcase is empty, the first storm exposes it. God is not asking for fake confidence. He is inviting honest, rooted faith that can handle real questions.

- Where do you feel your faith is most vulnerable right now, and what usually triggers that vulnerability?**
- When you think about why you believe in Jesus, what is more dominant for you right now, evidence or emotion, and why?**

#### GROW

**Read Matthew 13:3-8**

Jesus says faith can start fast and feel joyful, but if it stays shallow it cannot endure the sun. In the sermon, the sun represented the moment when doubts and trouble show up, not just general stress, but pressure that challenges what you believe. Shallow faith is not always loud rebellion. Sometimes it is just unprepared faith. It looks fine until it gets tested.

- What do you think “rocky soil” looks like in real life, especially in the way we think and receive truth?**

Pastor Doug called out how easy it is to live on the surface now. We skim, we scroll, we absorb sound bites, and we are trained to feel our way through life instead of thinking with the mind of Christ. That kind of pace shapes our discipleship. If our inputs are shallow, our roots tend to be shallow too. That is why a single viral clip or one confident skeptic can feel like it uproots everything.

- What has been shaping your beliefs the most lately, Scripture, church community, conversations, or media, and what needs to change about that mix?**

God is not threatened by questions. The sermon said Christianity is not blind faith and that truth is not afraid of questions. **“A faith that can’t be tested is a faith that can’t be trusted.”** The goal is not to win arguments or become arrogant. It is to become steady. When your faith is strengthened by logic, reason, and reality, it will not drift every time your emotions swing.

- What is one hard question you are afraid to face, and what would it look like to bring it honestly to Jesus instead of avoiding it?**

## MOVE

### Read 1 Peter 3:15

Being prepared does not mean being combative. It means being ready. Doubt can become a doorway instead of a dead end. The sermon pointed to Thomas in *John 20:25 to 27* and reframed him as honest, not hopeless. Jesus did not punish his questions. He met him with peace and evidence. If you bring your questions to Christ, you are not betraying faith, you are training it. But if doubt becomes your destination, you will slowly harden into cynicism.

- What is one doubt or pressure point you need to prepare for, and what is a practical next step you can take this week to strengthen your roots?**
- Where have you been tempted to stay stuck in doubt, and what would it look like to treat doubt like a doorway into deeper trust?**

Pastor Doug gave multiple “reasons God is real”. Creation points to a Creator in *Romans 1:20*. Our

conscience points to God's law written on our hearts in *Romans 2:15*. When you notice beauty and longing, do not just consume it. Let it point you somewhere. Let the evidence you can see lead you toward the God you cannot.

- What evidence of God have you been ignoring lately, in creation, conscience, or longing, and how can you respond with obedience instead of just agreement?**

## **P R A Y**

As a group, pray for rooted faith that lasts when life gets hot. Ask Jesus to meet you like he met Thomas, with peace and clarity, and ask God to deepen your roots with truth that is stronger than your moods. Before your next group, take one action step: write down one question you are carrying and one piece of evidence that strengthens your trust, then bring both to God and come ready to share.