



**TAKEAWAY:** We can bring our doubts and questions to Jesus and look to Him for the answers.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 28:16 NLT, Matthew 21:42 NLT, Hebrews 11:1-3 NLT, Matthew 7:24-27 ESV, 1 Peter 3:15 NLT

## INTRO

[Author's Note: This is my personal experience. If you did not have a similar experience, you can talk about how many students question their faith when they graduate high school and go to college]

Growing up, my family went to church every week. My father was an elder at the church we went to, and my mother worked at the school associated with our church. I also went to student night every week. It was just what we did. Then, I went to college. I realized that I didn't have to go to church every Sunday or Wednesday. I could do whatever I wanted. So, I really started to question if I was doing the church thing because I believed in God or because I had to go all these years. I struggled with this for months. I purposely did not go to church for a while, and I began to wonder if my parents got it wrong. I really wrestled with what I actually believed about God, the church, and the Bible.

## TENSION

I think there are a lot of people that wrestle with what they believe and if what they were taught growing up is still what they believe in. This whole process is something called deconstruction and it's becoming more and more common or at least it's talked about more freely than it was when I was your age. Deconstructing your faith is just unpacking what you believe and rethinking it. It's examining your belief system, asking questions about it, and then reconstructing that belief system. That's not a bad thing. In fact, asking questions about what you believe is a really good thing. We want you to have a relationship with Jesus because you believe in Him and because you want to partner with Him, not because your parents, or small group leader, or even because I believe in Him. I do want to warn you that deconstructing in an unhealthy way with unhealthy influences can leave you more confused than when you started. But it's a good thing when done right.

An example of a deconstructed belief would be someone who was a complementarian, but after deconstructing and reconstructing their beliefs they're now an egalitarian. They found that after they did the research they believed differently.

I want to be clear that deconstruction is a beginning not an end. It's a process and we are going to reconstruct as we go along. **Deconstruction without reconstruction is just destruction.**

## TRUTH

Speaking of construction, have you ever heard of something called a cornerstone? I'm going to show you a picture of one. [\[Show a slide of a masonry cornerstone.\]](#) Traditionally, it's the first stone laid for a structure and then all the other stones are laid around it. It's also usually set in a prominent location, so it can be seen from the outside of a building and often builders will inscribe construction dates and even the names of the architect, builder, or other significant individuals on it. Now, if you're building a structure or something else, I would imagine that you'd want a good foundation, so you'd probably start with a good strong cornerstone.

Back in the day, there was a prophet named Isaiah, and he gave a message to the people that God had given to him. This is what that message said:

*Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken. Isaiah 28:16 NLT*

This prophecy was about Jesus. God promised the Israelites that because He was sending Jesus, we could put all our hopes on Him. In fact, it was such a sure thing that God painted a picture of a cornerstone, assuring His people they could build their beliefs and even their entire lives upon Him.

That prophecy in Isaiah came true in the book of Matthew. If you turn to Matthew 21:42, you can read how it all unfolded:



**TAKEAWAY:** There can't be a redemption story if there's nothing to redeem.  
We can be messy but have a lord over your mess.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 16:15-19 NLT, Acts 9:3-6 NLT, Romans 3:10-12  
NLT, 2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT, James 1:23-25 NLT, 2 Timothy 2:13 NLT

## **SURFACE**

When have you ever let someone down?

## **SERIOUS**

What are some characteristics you think Christians should have?

## **SPIRITUAL**

Why do you think Christians don't always act like Jesus?

If Jesus extends grace to us, how can that be helpful to us when others let us down?

What does it mean to have a Lord over your mess?

What is a practical way you can keep your eyes on Jesus throughout your week?

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