



PRAYER: Gracious God, we thank you that your love is not a vague sentiment but a proven reality, demonstrated through the cross while we were still lost in our mess. We rejoice because you *don't play about us*, choosing to value our lives at the highest possible price rather than waiting for us to find our way to you. Thank you for being a God of action who moves with intentionality and protection, silencing every lie of the enemy with the absolute proof of your devotion. We will live with our heads held high, confident that we are cherished, defended, and protected by you. In the name of Jesus, we thank you. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If you had to pick one moment in your life where it became crystal clear that God was 'not playing' when it came to looking out for you, what would it be?

INTRODUCTION: In all honest faith, there is some real doubt. So often we discourage people from expressing their doubts or shame people because they have doubts. But the truth is, even the strongest believers (*in scripture and in life*) had doubts, and those doubts are what we're going to dive into on a deeper level in this series. Whether you call yourself a believer or not, this series is for you. It is for those of us who believe, but who also find ourselves saying, "*Lord, help my unbelief!*" It is also for those who don't believe because of their doubts. Doubts unexpressed are doubts unaddressed.

SCRIPTURE: Read **Romans 5:8**: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

DISCUSSION:

1. **What stood out in the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message?
2. **The "While We Were Still" Factor:** Our text remind us that Christ died for us "while we were still sinners." In our modern relationships, we often wait for people to prove their worth or apologize before we show them kindness. Why do you think it's so hard for us to wrap our heads around the fact that God gave us His best while we were at our worst? How does this change the way you view your own "messy" seasons?
3. **Proof Over Promises:** Pastor Watson's message "God Don't Play About Me" implies action. Paul says God *demonstrates* (shows/proves) His love rather than just saying it. Many people say they love us, but their actions don't always line up. How does the "demonstration" of the cross serve as the ultimate proof that God isn't just "talking" when He says He loves you?



Welcome!

SERIES: I Doubt It

Today's Message: God Don't Play About Me

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

4. **The Protective Nature of the Cross:** If someone “don't play” about you, they are willing to do things to protect you or assist you. Thinking about the sacrifice mentioned in Romans 5:8, what does the “price” God paid (the life of His Son) tell you about your actual value in God's eyes? If God “didn't play” with the price of your redemption, why do we often play with our own sense of self-worth?
5. **Living Like You're “The One”** -- Knowing that the Creator of the universe is “dead serious” about His relationship with you should change your posture. If you truly lived every day fully convinced that “God Don't Play About Me”—how would that change the way you handle fear or rejection from others?

CHALLENGE: May 31st is **Emerge Sunday**. Our young adults are inviting their **COUSINS** and “Play Cousins” to join them in worship. Why not invite your COUSINS of whatever age to join you in worship for this special COUSINS celebration?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow, like and share” our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org

SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org

Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org

Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org

Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org

Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: Lisa.Johnson@myspbc.org

Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org

Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.

Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.