

a script from



# WORSHIP

## "When Doubt Sits Beside You"

By  
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**What** While questioning his ability to be a good father, Matt struggles with doubts regarding his own faith... even while sitting in church.

Themes: Doubt, Faith, Father's Day, Bible, Truth, Hope

**Who** **Matt** - adult male  
**Belief**  
**Doubt**  
**Parishioners** (six, non-speaking roles)  
**Matt's Son** (non-speaking)  
**Pastor** (offstage voice)

**When** Modern Day

**Costumes** Doubt's attire should be black or darker colors than the others.  
Belief's attire should be white or lighter colors than the others.  
The other characters should wear clothing appropriate for church.

**Props** Nine chairs

**Why** 2 Timothy 2:13, Mark 9: 22-24

**How** Matt and Doubt never fully look at each other, suggesting the doubts are coming from Matt's own thoughts. You may choose more or fewer parishioners based on availability and direct them to look out into audience during the scene mostly unaware of Matt, Belief and Doubt as they speak.

**Time** 5 - 6 minutes

Have nine chairs already set up in a row on the stage facing the audience.

If possible, have the worship leader lead the congregation in singing the first three verses of “It is Well with My Soul.”

While the song is being sung, the **Parishioners** take a seat, along with **Matt** in the center chair, **Belief** just stage right of **Matt**, with the chair just stage left of **Matt**, left empty.

As the song is ending, **Doubt** enters the row and sits to **Matt's** left in the empty chair. If possible, have a spotlight focus mainly on **Matt** and **Doubt**.

**Pastor:** *(offstage, enthusiastically as the song ends)* That’s always been my favorite hymn. May we be able to experience that peace like a river no matter what’s going on in our lives, and be able to say with confidence, “It is well,” yes,” it is well with my soul!”

**Doubt:** *(leaning towards Matt)* Feelin’ all that peace?

**Matt:** *(smile fading)* Um... what’s that?

**Doubt:** Peace. Are you feeling the peace?

**Matt:** *(defeated)* How can I feel peace when my son hates me?

**Doubt:** Good Christians are able to say, “It is well...”

**Matt:** That’s a pretty tall order when I feel just the opposite.

**Pastor:** Remember, my friends, that true peace is not found in personal feelings, but only in faith in Jesus Christ.

**Doubt:** How much faith do you have?

**Matt:** I really *try* to have faith... I pray for my son all the time... but sometimes I wonder if anyone is really listening... if anyone *cares*. Why is God so silent?

**Doubt:** Are you *worth* caring about?

**Matt:** Probably not so much. I’ve always wanted to be a good father to my son... but I guess I’m just not good enough.

**Pastor:** May we experience that same peace that God’s heroes of faith have enjoyed throughout the Bible.

**Doubt:** You’re certainly no David or John the Baptist, or Job, or Elijah or Peter--

**Matt:** *(shaking his head)* I could never even be in the same category as *those* saints.

**Pastor:** *(offstage)* Before we get ready to depart from our service today, let us bow our heads and each spend a moment with our Lord, asking that during this coming week, we may have trust in God, wisdom for our day-to-day activities, and peace like a river with our God in all our circumstances, whatever they happen to be.

*Everyone in the row bows their heads in prayer as a keyboardist softly plays the melody of “It is Well” in the background.*

*After a few moments, **Doubt** fidgets a bit, then stands up and exits the row, stage left.*

*A few moments later, the spotlight shifts slightly to now include **Matt** and **Belief**, who sits at his right.*

**Belief:** *(leaning forward)* Feeling any better?

**Matt:** *(tilting his head slightly to his right)* A little. Some of my doubt slipped away for a bit.

**Belief:** *(smiling)* Doubt has a tendency to do that during prayer.

**Matt:** I just wish that I never struggled with doubt... like the heroes in the Bible.

**Belief:** Many biblical heroes also had doubts.

**Matt:** *(surprised)* Really? Like who?

**Belief:** For starters, David... John the Baptist... Job... Elijah... Peter-

**Matt:** Wait—they *all* struggled with doubt?

**Belief:** As well as many, many others.

**Matt:** *(pause)* I just feel like I'm a terrible father. Just this morning I had this huge argument with my son about going to church. He wasn't sure if he wanted to go. He said the church is filled with hypocrites. Then I got angry and told him he didn't have a choice- that he *had* to go... and he turned his back on me and walked away!

**Belief:** So... he's struggling with doubt?

**Matt:** *(realization hits him)* Oh... just like his father. I guess *I'm* the hypocrite.

**Belief:** You love and want the best for your son. That's what good fathers do.

**Matt:** But how can I help him if I also struggle with doubt?

**Belief:** Doubt is not the opposite of belief. It means you care enough to struggle for answers. God is big enough to handle your doubt. Do you remember the story in the Bible about the father who loved his son just like you love yours? He approached Jesus and begged Jesus to heal his son – *if he could*. Jesus' answer was, "Everything is possible for one who believes." Do you remember the father's response to that?

While **Matt** turns directly to face **Belief** to recite the following line, **Matt's Son** enters the row and sits silently in the seat vacated by **Doubt** and bows his head.

**Matt:** *(thinking)* I think he said something like, "I *do* believe; help me overcome my *unbelief*."

**Belief:** *(kindly)* Even when Doubt comes back to sit beside you, and it will, keep asking questions... keep praying... keep wrestling... keep going to church... and know that I am always beside you, even when you don't feel me there. *That's* the father you need to be for your son.

**Pastor:** *(offstage)* Let us end our prayer by singing the final verse of “It is Well.”

**Matt** finally turns frontwards and discovers his son sitting next to him as the worship leader leads the congregation in singing the final verse.

During the singing, the **Six Parishioners** slowly leave, with **Matt** and his **Son** deep in conversation.

*End Scene.*

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