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# Matthew Chapter 11

## ☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever been disappointed at the results of an outreach project that you thought would be amazing but wasn't? Why/why not?

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- b. Have you ever been surprised at how successful an outreach project was? Why/why not?

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## ☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

This chapter focuses on John the Baptist who was sitting in prison. After successfully being used by the Holy Spirit to draw huge crowds to the wilderness to listen to his preaching about the coming Messiah and baptizing hundreds, including Jesus Himself, John is now locked up like a common criminal.

How do you think he felt? Abandoned and forgotten, or do you think he may have felt like he was mistaken about his whole mission? Why?

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Why do you think Jesus never visited John in prison? Do you think it may have jeopardized Jesus' mission? Why?

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How do you think John would have responded to a visit from Jesus? Why?

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Why do you think John still had some disciples with Him while he was in prison?

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Do you think that they didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah?

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After John sent messengers to ask Jesus if He really was the Messiah and they came back talking about the amazing miracles, do you think John felt satisfied that he had done the right thing and that his mission was accomplished? Why/why not?

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Do you think it's possible that someone may have told John all the wonderful things Jesus said about him after his disciples left that day? How do you think it would have made him feel if he had heard what Jesus said? Why?

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### 3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

As a human being John probably had his ups and downs in prison. That's why he sent messengers to ask Jesus if He really was the One even after baptizing Him and seeing God's favor poured out there by the river. He may have been confused and grateful all at the same time.

What do you do when you feel this way? It is completely human to have doubts and to search for answers. If you have ever felt confused or had doubts about your relationship with Jesus you are completely normal and it will probably happen again. It doesn't mean you aren't a good person or have slipped in your Christian walk, it just means you are human.

### 4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to strengthen your faith and draw you closer to Him. Ask Him to reassure you every day and help you to spend more time with Him growing closer.