

BY-PATH MEADOW, GIANT DESPAIR, DOUBTING CASTLE
DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Numbers 21:1–9. What happened to the Israelites?

2. What excuse does Hopeful give for not speaking up when Christian wanted to go into By-path meadow?

Read 2 Timothy 4:12. What admonition does Paul give to Timothy?

3. Trace the path of Christian’s journey into Doubting Castle. What initially set him on his way to meet Giant Despair?

4. Bunyan uses rising waters and darkness to make it difficult—if not impossible—for Christian and Hopeful to return to the Way. Do you agree that “it is easier going out of the way when we are in, than going in when we are out”? Explain your answer.

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Was it really impossible for Christian and Hopeful to prevent their foray into Doubting Castle? Explain your answer using specific verses of Scripture.

5. Bunyan pairs Diffidence with Giant Despair. In your opinion, what is the connection between diffidence and despair?

6. Christian had double sorrow because “it was through his unadvised counsel that they were brought into this distress.” Read James 3:1–2. What warning does this have to those who desire to lead others?

7. What thought patterns would signal that someone is in Doubting Castle? (See also Job 7.)
