



John 20:24-29

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, April 8

Big Idea: When you experience doubts, don't run away from them or cover them up - follow them. They can lead you to a deeper and more mature faith in God.

Key Verse: ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Opening Question: How did you celebrate Easter this past week? Were you a visitor, a host, or did you just take it easy?

Study/Discussion Questions:

Read through the scripture together.

Observation Questions

1. What things do we learn about Thomas from these verses?
2. What do we learn about the disciples?
3. What do we learn about Jesus?

Interpretation Questions

1. How do you think Thomas felt as the only one of Jesus' disciples to have missed seeing the resurrected Jesus?
2. How *might* the other disciples have responded to Thomas' doubts?
3. What do you think was going through Thomas' mind when Jesus encouraged him to put his finger to his wounds?
4. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."?

Application Questions

1. Bryan spoke about the 'door of doubt' that we all have in our own 'house'. What makes this door such a frightening thing?
2. Have you ever experienced doubt? What causes you to doubt? What do you do with your own doubt?
3. Bryan spoke about a season of his life when he experienced doubt. What did you think about that story?
4. What can we learn from Thomas' response to his own doubt?
5. Bryan commented: "In the gospel of John, Faith is not a static experience that you either have or don't have, faith is a movement toward God (or the opposite, away from God)". Have you seen this to be true in your own life?
6. In what specific ways can you experience movement toward God even in the face of doubt?