

## LifeGroup Discussion Questions

John 20:24-31

April 5, 2020

### **Overview:**

Jesus did not meet Thomas' expectations for a Messiah. Thomas ultimately expected the Messiah to throw off Roman rule. Not only did Jesus die, but He died by the cruelest methods of execution known during that time. Dying on the cross destroyed everything Thomas knew to be true about the Messiah. Thomas went from devoting three years of his life to Jesus to having his entire world turned upside down. How do you respond when Jesus doesn't meet your expectations?

Do you believe Jesus to be who He claimed to be? This is the one question that every believer has to struggle with. This is the point where faith and doubt collide. Every one of us has situations arise in our lives that don't turn out the way we would have wanted them. I'm not referring to you not getting the parking spot at the grocery store you wanted. I'm referring to much larger circumstances in our lives. When you have prayed and prayed for a sick loved one and they still pass away. When your marriage begins to fall apart and there is no sign of reconciliation. When you get laid off and wonder how you will provide for your family. In these moments do you believe Jesus to be who He claimed to be?

What you believe about Jesus is often demonstrated in times of stress and anxiety. Now is a great time to secure your faith in Jesus. The whole world has been turned upside down. It is in times of doubt that your faith can shine. Thomas wanted to believe in Jesus, but didn't see the cross as being part of God's plan. He needed to not only see the resurrected Jesus, but to feel His wounds as well. If Thomas had just given up he wouldn't have still been with the disciples. Thomas stayed around another week with them hoping to get a chance to see the resurrected Jesus. He was wrestling between faith and unbelief.

Thomas is not unique in his struggle. This struggle between faith and doubt is one every believer fights. Max Lucado once wrote, "Feed your fears and your faith will starve. Feed your faith, and your fears will." What are you feeding during this time of quarantine? I'm reminded of one of the greatest prayers ever said in the Bible. A father had brought his demon possessed son to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:20-26). The father asked Jesus to heal his son if He was able to. Jesus responded and said, "Everything is possible for one who believes." Then the father responded, "I believe, help my unbelief." Whatever area in your life where faith and doubt collide this should be your prayer.

What happened to Thomas? He was killed with a spear for his belief in Jesus in 72 AD. In the end Thomas' faith overcame his doubt and he was willing to give

his life for the gospel. Will you stand firm no matter what occurs in this new corona world?

Bible Study: John 20:24-31

1. Matthew 28:17. Right before the ascension some of the disciples doubted. Discuss a time when you wrestled between doubt and faith.
2. What are some life situations that cause people to either not believe or doubt in Jesus?
3. Jesus told Thomas to place his hands in his scars. Jesus wanted to eliminate all of Thomas' unbelief. Why after being with Jesus for three years and seeing all the miracles do you think Thomas still had unbelief?
4. What would be your one request of Jesus to eliminate all your doubt in times of trouble?
5. How does stress and anxiety affect your faith?
6. What steps are you taking to feed your faith and not your fear during this quarantine time?
7. Do you believe Jesus to be who He said he was? Do you believe you possess the knowledge of the words of life determining the difference between heaven and hell? If this is true who are you sharing this truth with?