

# **Bible Study Guide: Encountering Jesus – From Doubt to Faith**

 Source Transcript:

---

## **Big Idea**

**An encounter with Jesus moves us from fear and doubt to faith and mission, teaching us to trust His presence even when we cannot see Him.**

---

## **Theme**

**True encounters with Christ are not limited to physical experiences—they are lived through faith, the Holy Spirit, and serving others.**

---

## **Core Scriptures**

**John 20:19–29 (Doubting Thomas)**

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## **John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you.”

---

### **Introduction: What Happens After the Resurrection?**

After Jesus’ crucifixion:

- The disciples are afraid
- They are hiding
- They feel guilt and confusion

#### **Key Insight:**

“Even those closest to Jesus struggled with fear, doubt, and failure.”

This study explores:

- Fear behind closed doors
  - The struggle of doubt
  - The power of encountering Christ
- 

### **Main Point 1: Fear and Failure Are Part of the Journey**

## **Explanation**

After Jesus' death:

- The disciples scattered
- They hid in fear
- They struggled with guilt

Peter:

- Denied Jesus
- Felt deep shame

“They were afraid for their lives and overwhelmed by failure.”

## **Spiritual Truth**

Even faithful followers:

- Experience fear
- Make mistakes
- Struggle with doubt

## **Application**

- Where am I currently operating out of fear?
- What past failure is still affecting my faith?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Fear may surround you—but it doesn’t define your future.”

---

## **Main Point 2: Jesus Meets Us in Our Fear**

### **Explanation**

Jesus appears to the disciples and says:

“Peace be with you.”

This is significant because:

- He meets them in hiding
- He speaks peace into chaos

### **Spiritual Truth**

Jesus:

- Doesn’t wait for us to be strong
- Meets us where we are

### **Application**

- Where do I need Jesus’ peace right now?
- Am I allowing Him into my fear?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Jesus doesn’t wait for courage—He brings peace into fear.”

---

## **Main Point 3: Doubt Does Not Disqualify You**

### **Explanation**

Thomas:

- Missed the first encounter
- Refused to believe without proof

“I will not believe unless I see.”

### **Spiritual Insight**

Thomas’ doubt reveals:

- A deep desire for real connection
- A need for personal encounter

### **Biblical Truth**

Jesus:

- Does not reject Thomas
- Meets him in his doubt

## **Application**

- What doubts am I holding onto?
- Am I bringing them to Jesus—or hiding them?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Doubt isn’t rejection—it’s an invitation to deeper faith.”

---

## **Main Point 4: Jesus Meets You Personally**

### **Explanation**

Jesus returns specifically for Thomas.

He invites him:

- To see
- To touch
- To believe

### **Spiritual Truth**

Jesus meets us:

- Individually
- Personally
- Compassionately

“Jesus comes back for the one who is struggling.”

## **Application**

- How has Jesus personally revealed Himself to me?
- Where do I need a deeper encounter?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Jesus will come back for you—even in your doubt.”

---

## **Main Point 5: Faith Goes Beyond What We Can See**

### **Key Scripture: John 20:29**

### **Explanation**

Jesus declares:

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Faith is:

- Trust without physical proof
- Confidence in God's presence

## **Modern Challenge**

We want:

- Evidence
- Control
- Certainty

But God calls us to:

- Trust
- Believe
- Walk by faith

## **Application**

- What am I waiting to “see” before I believe?
- How can I grow in faith today?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Faith begins where sight ends.”

---

**Main Point 6: The Holy Spirit is Our Ongoing Encounter**

## **Explanation**

Jesus leaves—but sends:

- The Holy Spirit

“I will send one greater—the Spirit.”

## **Spiritual Truth**

The Holy Spirit:

- Guides us
- Speaks to us
- Empowers us

## **Key Insight**

We don't need:

- Physical proximity to Jesus

Because we have:

- Spiritual presence within us

## **Application**

- Am I aware of the Holy Spirit's presence?
- How can I listen more closely to Him?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“You don’t need to see Jesus to experience Him.”

---

## **Main Point 7: Encountering Jesus Happens Through People**

### **Explanation**

Jesus teaches:

- We encounter Him through others

### **Key Scripture: Matthew 25**

“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Real encounters happen:

- In service
- In compassion
- In broken places

“You encounter Christ in the lives of others.”

### **Application**

- Who in my life needs love and compassion?
- Where can I serve others this week?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“You will find Jesus where people are hurting.”

---

## **Main Point 8: Don't Contain Jesus—Live Him**

### **Explanation**

We often try to:

- Contain God in buildings
- Limit Him to traditions

But Jesus:

- Breaks systems
- Moves beyond structures

### **Spiritual Insight**

True faith is:

- Personal
- Active
- Lived out daily

## **Application**

- Am I limiting God to certain spaces or routines?
- How can I live out my faith beyond church?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Jesus is not confined to buildings—He moves through lives.”

---

## **Main Point 9: Be Patient with Others in Their Faith Journey**

### **Explanation**

Not everyone is at the same place spiritually.

“There’s always someone in your circle who isn’t there yet.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

We are called to:

- Be patient
- Show grace
- Walk alongside others

## **Application**

- Who in my life needs patience and encouragement?
- How can I support someone growing in faith?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Grace for others reflects the grace given to you.”

---

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Where do you see fear or doubt in your own life?
  2. How has Jesus met you personally in your journey?
  3. What does it mean to live by faith without seeing?
  4. How can you become more aware of the Holy Spirit?
  5. Who is someone you can walk alongside in their faith journey?
- 

### **Practical Application Steps**

#### **1. Bring Your Doubts to Jesus**

- Be honest in prayer

## **2. Practice Faith Daily**

- Trust God in small steps

## **3. Listen to the Holy Spirit**

- Create space for stillness

## **4. Serve Others**

- Look for opportunities to help

## **5. Encourage Someone**

- Walk with someone who is struggling

---

## **Closing Prayer**

Father,

Thank You for meeting us in our fear and doubt.

Help us to trust You even when we cannot see.

Strengthen our faith,

guide us through Your Spirit,

and teach us to encounter You in the lives of others.

Use us to bring Your love into the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

---

## **Final Takeaway**

**You don't need to see Jesus to encounter Him—  
you experience Him through faith, His Spirit, and  
loving others.**