

## Think Your Way Through It

### 1. READ

#### **Scripture: John 20: 24-29 New International Version (NKJV)**

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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.” <sup>26</sup>A 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!” <sup>27</sup>Then 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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

# NO LONGER STUDY GUIDE

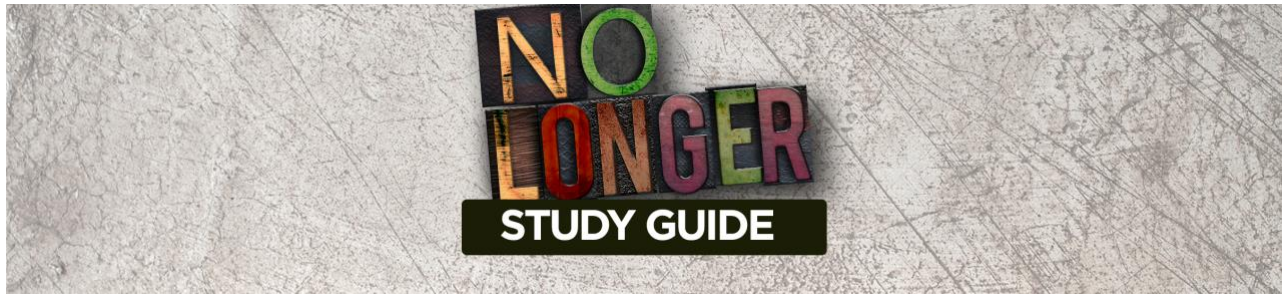
**Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: John 20 and these reference scriptures John 11, John 5:1-9, Matthew 27:24, Genesis 4, Numbers 13:33, 2 Kings 5:13, John 11:11-16, John 14:1-17.**

## 2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



This week Pastor Watley continues his sermon series “No Longer.” This series is designed to encourage us to trust God with the “no longer” moments of our lives. God will always show up in our lives even when it seems like we’re alone because we are never alone. God will never leave us nor forsake us because we are now “no longer” the person we were in the past. This week Pastor Watley helps us look at a familiar person, “Thomas,” in a new way. The title for Pastor’s sermon this week is “Think Your Way Through It.” “God is trying to change us from the inside out, beginning with how we think.” Pastor Watley begins his sermon this week with this quote. God wants us to know that these can be and will be different if we think it through with Him. Pastor uses as an example his dog that had an issue with his brain. The dog “Huck” would get stuck in a corner because of his problem, and he couldn’t see his way out. Pastor explains that for some of us, we have the same issue. As a result, of how we think we get stuck in a corner and Pastor coined it “Cornered Thinking.”



Have you been stuck with cornered thinking?

Pastor walks us through these “seven common thought corners” that keep us stuck. For many of the corners Pastor shared scriptures that you should read and learn:

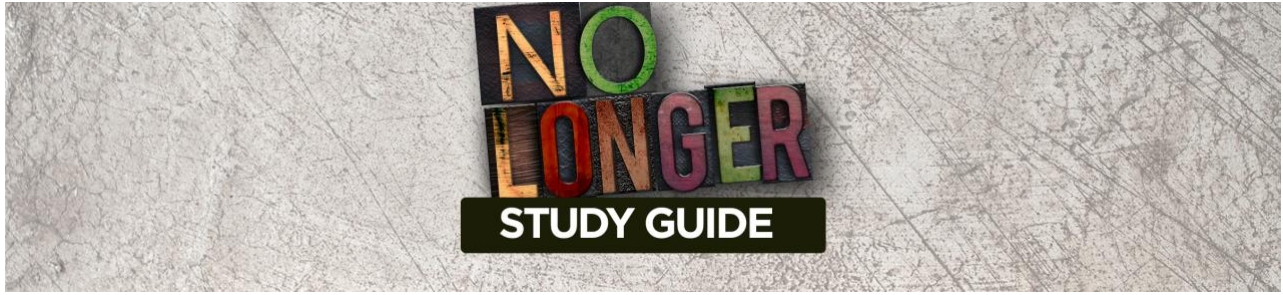
1. Boundaries – Mary, Martha and Lazarus – John 11
2. Chronology – Man at the Pool of Bethesda – John 5:1-9
3. Rationality – Pilate washing his hands of Jesus – Matthew 27:24
4. Emotionalism – Cain and Abel – Genesis 4
5. Defeatist – Children of Israel – Numbers 13:33
6. Proudful – Naaman – 2 Kings 5:13
7. Circular

These corners keep us stuck, but it’s God’s desire for us to break these and others so that we can be free in Jesus. Pastor quotes Romans 12:2 to remind us that we need to change our thinking if we’re going to move forward. God is prepared to meet us where we are and move us forward toward Him. As a result, Pastor points out that Thomas might not really have been a doubter but instead that he believed and wanted to see it with his eyes. Pastor gives us these thoughts on Thomas, Thomas was:

- A contrarian thinker
- Courageous
- Curious

What is the result of your believe in Jesus? How does it show up in your life and the life of those around you? God wants us to change our thinking, have you ?

Watch the sermon again and share it with some friends, as well as answer the questions below.



### **3. RESPOND**

#### **Introspective Questions**

- ï Are you a contrarian thinker?
- ï Are you courageous?
- ï Are you curious?

#### **Discussion Questions**

- ï What do you think the other disciples thoughts about Thomas and his questions?
- ï Why was it important for Thomas and the others to see the marks on Jesus?