



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

SESSIONS 1-6







# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## SESSION 1

### Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### Discuss

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Revealing His Identity Session 1

### Big Idea

John's Gospel starts as Genesis does: in the beginning.

Creation is the bedrock of a biblical worldview, for it's the first ultimate truth: God made everything. He wove it like fabric. He spun it like clay. He breathed it into formation like glass.

More remarkable than what God did is the way He did it: His tool was His Word. He spoke, and it was. The apostle John traced this Word through time.

Men spoke of this Word while surrounded by both sea and sand, from human thrones and from pits of despair. One man in the wilderness, dressed in leather and camel hair, announced that this Word that gives light to everyone was coming into the world wrapped in human flesh.

A remarkable claim like this requires remarkable evidence, and John provided it for us. In John's Gospel we come to know Jesus in the same way evidence is presented to a jury in a courtroom. John introduced witnesses who testified of the Word made flesh. He examined the words Jesus said about Himself. He described the things Jesus did that testified of His divinity.

Everything you're about to see points to one conclusion: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and

by believing, you can have life through Him. [Robby Gallaty (2016). *Knowing Jesus: Living by His Name*. LifeWay Press. Retrieved from <https://read.lifeway.com>]

### Opening

We've become experts at filling every hour of our days with something—work, recreation, friends, family, school, church, and daily routines. We have email, text, Internet, and even live chat at our fingertips 24-7. We have smartphones with as many apps as they can hold; inexpensive video-streaming accounts; and endless hours of books, blogs, and games to consume. We squeeze in time between meetings or shifts to check off items on to-do lists or to catch up with activity in our social-media feeds.

What unavoidable responsibilities fill your day?

---

---

---

What additional things do you add to your day?

---

---

---

How do you relax and recharge after a long day?

---

---

---



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Revealing His Identity Session 1

We first encounter Jesus after He and His disciples had had a trying day. They started out with a long boat ride across the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd of people immediately flocked to them, attracted by the One they had seen work miracles. The disciples worked during Jesus' all-day healing and teaching service, were directed to distribute food for dinner, and then had to pick up all the leftovers. It had been a long day; all they wanted was to get back to their boat, row home, and sleep. As it turns out, their long day was about to get longer.

### Watch

The more we know Jesus, the more we \_\_\_\_\_ Him

The more we love Him, the more we \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

The more we obey Him, the more He \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to us.

Jesus is always \_\_\_\_\_, spending time with the Father.

Jesus discloses His \_\_\_\_\_ in an amazing way.

What Jesus is saying, without saying anything, is that He is \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ by saying, "Don't be afraid."

\_\_\_\_\_ is the verb to be. God always is, He always was, and He always will be. He's always in the eternal present.

### Read

The opening of the video included the following statement about Jesus:

"The more we know Him, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more we obey Him. The more we obey Him, the more He manifests Himself."

How does this cyclical process help you understand discipleship?

---

---

---

Read Mark 6:47-50 and John 6:16-20.

What additional details did Mark include? How do they add to the intensity of the situation?

---

---

---

What did Jesus do while the disciples were struggling against the wind?

---

---

---



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Revealing His Identity Session 1

Robby pointed out that this situation was the second time Jesus took something the disciples knew well—the lake—and used it to teach them dependence on Him.

How does adversity help us learn dependence?

---

---

---

What was something significant Robby pointed out in Mark 6:48?

---

---

---

The accounts of Jesus walking on the water contained proof of Jesus' divinity: the fact that He walked on the waves (see Job 9:8) and His response to the disciples' fear.

How did Jesus respond when He saw that the disciples were afraid? What was significant about the way He referred to Himself?

---

---

---

Read Matthew 14:27-33.

Matthew's account gives further insight into the events of that evening, particularly Peter's involvement. But it also shows us something

important that happened after Jesus got into the boat.

How did the disciples respond to what Jesus performed that evening on the lake? What proof do you think convinced them?

---

---

---

## Pray

think about what we saw before Jesus walked on the water. Jesus intentionally took time at the end of a long day to go off by Himself to pray. We don't often think of Jesus as needing to rest and be refreshed. While we don't know exactly what He was praying in this instance, we see an invaluable example for our relationship with God.

- How does prayer refresh you? How does it keep you focused on God instead of fearful of your circumstances?
- What's your most difficult challenge to a consistent, healthy prayer life?







# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## SESSION 2

### Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### Discuss

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## The Power of Faith Session 2

### Big Idea

We learned last week that John's Gospel was written to prove that Jesus is the Messiah. Each week of this Bible study was specifically developed to prove Jesus' identity to you, whether it's by the language John employed or by the words of a witness he recorded.

By the time of the events of today's passage, Jesus had already called five disciples: Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and John. This group had been to a wedding party (see John 2:2), had taken a trip to Capernaum for a few days (see 2:12), attended Passover in Jerusalem (see 2:13), met with a religious leader (see 3:1-2), journeyed into the Judean countryside (see 3:22), and taken a short-term mission trip to Samaria (see 4:4).

Jesus' ministry had been eventful too. He had already begun making a name for Himself as a miracle worker, a teacher with authority, and the Savior of the world.

Jesus had become famous enough that an official in Herod's court was unafraid to approach Him in the middle of the day to ask Him an important question. [Robby Gallaty (2016). Knowing Jesus: Living by His Name. LifeWay Press. Retrieved from <https://read.lifeway.com>]

At the end of group session 1, you were asked to identify areas of your life that are out of your control.

What's your typical response when you recognize that things are out of your control? Fear? Relief? Other?

---

---

---

Were there specific moments this week when you felt out of control? If so, what were they, and how did you respond?

---

---

---

How does seeing Jesus as the Messiah affect your ideas about control?

---

---

---

What was most insightful or meaningful to you this past week in your reading, journaling, or personal study?

---

---

---

### Opening



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## The Power of Faith Session 2

Last week we explored the incredible truth that Jesus is who He says He is. That's the greatest realization in the world because the way we see Jesus fundamentally changes the way we live our lives.

After seeing Christ for who He is, we begin dealing with this issue called faith. Today we'll see a Jewish official demonstrate what faith looks like, and then we'll take some steps to see just how drastically that kind of faith can affect our lives today.

### Watch

Faith is believing and having confidence that God's word is \_\_\_\_\_ and understanding that when you act upon that faith, it brings God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith is founded upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Faith in God is always expressed in \_\_\_\_\_.

The opposite of faith is not \_\_\_\_\_. The opposite of faith is \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith is not just believing in spite of \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith is obeying in spite of the \_\_\_\_\_.

God's divine instrument for conforming us to the image of Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Trials are used by God not to make us \_\_\_\_\_.

God uses trials in our life to make us \_\_\_\_\_.

### Read

Robby said faith can be defined as believing and having confidence that God's word is true and understanding that when you act upon that faith, it brings God's blessing.

How is this definition encouraging or helpful? How is it convicting?

---

---

---

Read John 4:43-48.

Why would it have been difficult for the people in Jesus' hometown to recognize His holy identity and divine authority?

---

---

---

In what ways was the royal official in Cana a stark contrast to the people in Jesus' hometown?



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## The Power of Faith Session 2

---

---

---

Why is it important for us to know that this man held a position of royal authority?

---

---

---

Robby said the opposite of faith isn't unbelief but disobedience.

Was that surprising? Explain your reaction to that statement.

---

---

---

What are some ways you hear from the Lord in order to receive His instruction?

---

---

---

Read John 4:49-54.

Even though the official might not have gotten the response he had anticipated from Jesus, his faith wasn't shaken. Knowing Jesus was capable of healing his son, he punctuated the intent of his question with an urgent plea: "Come down before my boy dies!" (v. 49). This man was

desperate, and he knew the only One who could heal his son was Jesus.

Why is suffering so effective in revealing the object of our faith?

---

---

---

How has God used suffering in your life to strengthen your faith?

---

---

---

## Pray

It's sometimes hard for us to separate the ideas of belief and faith. While we can easily say, "I believe Jesus is Lord," acting on it is a little harder. If we truly believe Jesus is the Son of God, that understanding will be visibly demonstrated in the way we live our lives.

- What's an example of something you believe to be true about God yet have a hard time putting into action?
- How has God shown Himself to be trustworthy when you've demonstrated your faith in Him?







# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## SESSION 3

### Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### Discuss

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Spiritual Growth Session 3

### Big Idea

It takes years to produce a single grape that's edible. In fact, if a vinedresser is going to plant a vineyard, he's supposed to prohibit the tree from bearing any fruit at all for a few years. While this strategy is disheartening and may seem unfair, the reason is simple. The roots of a young grapevine aren't strong enough to support the weight of the fruit until it has been seasoned for a while.

Growing grapes was common knowledge in the first century, particularly in Israel. For generations Scripture compared Israel to a grapevine, and God was the Vinedresser.

But one fact stands out as we look at the history of Israel. They were more often than not a bad vine. The fact that they were God's chosen people didn't stop them from living in almost constant rebellion. It got so bad that God ceased giving them His Word for hundreds of years until one miraculous day when He sent His Word in the flesh to walk among us.

### Opening

In the previous group session you were asked to name current struggles you're facing, no matter how big or small they seem.

As you spent time in God's Word this week, how did your faith in Christ grow?

---

---

---

How did your faith in who Jesus is change the way you view your struggles?

---

---

---

How have you been comforted by knowing that Jesus promised to be all the sufficiency you need to follow Him?

---

---

---

What else was meaningful to you this past week in your reading, journaling, or personal study? Why?

---

---

---

In this session we'll see that once we're rooted in Christ, He uses two methods to make sure we're growing properly: pruning and purging. In today's video session Robby shows that Jesus is the True Vine and reveals how we're to grow in Him.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Spiritual Growth Session 3

### Watch

God takes away anything that doesn't accomplish the most \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

The Difference Between Pruning and Disciplining; pruning is for when you see \_\_\_\_\_.

Discipline is for when you see \_\_\_\_\_.

Both are equally \_\_\_\_\_, but they are for a different \_\_\_\_\_.

The more you abide, the more you desire to \_\_\_\_\_.

The more you pray, the more you want to \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus got, the more He \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ all-sufficient as the source of the Christian life?

---

---

---

Jesus removed the burden from our shoulders by calling Himself the True Vine. It isn't up to us to water ourselves; that's for the Vinedresser to do. It isn't up to us to be planted in the ground, for that's what Jesus does. We're only branches on His vine, though with that come some harsh realities.

What's the difference between pruning and purging?

---

---

---

Jesus said God prunes branches that produce fruit so that they can produce more fruit.

What are examples of losing something that results in a healthier and stronger faith?

---

---

---

### Read

Robby began this session by saying that Jesus' statement "I am the true vine" (John 15:1) means He's the source of everything we need.

Read aloud John 15:1-8.

Based on what we've learned during the past week and in today's session, in what ways is



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Spiritual Growth Session 3

Jesus also said whatever doesn't remain in Him is thrown away and burned.

How can you recognize whether something in your life needs purging?

---

---

---

Robby pointed out the while there are different purposes, pruning and purging may be equally painful in the moment.

When have you experienced a painful season that you later recognized as pruning that resulted in fresh growth in your life?

---

---

---

What fruit have you seen from the pain and growth of pruning?

---

---

---

The sooner we realize that our source in the Christian life is Jesus Christ, the sooner we'll bear His fruit. To understand how to remain rooted in God, Robby pointed out what Jesus did: He lived a prayerful life. The busier Jesus was, the more He prayed.

How often do you excuse your lack of prayer, time alone with God, or worshipping Him because you're too busy?

---

---

---

We're a busier society than perhaps any that has come before us, but the way we remain in Christ is to constantly connect with Him through prayer. What areas of your life do you need to rearrange in order to spend more time with God?

---

---

---

## Pray

Even on the heels of a long day and at the start of another one, Jesus made an extra effort to be alone with His Father. When do you spend time alone with the Father?

- What kinds of things do you pray for?
- When do you find yourself praying most often?







# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## SESSION 4

### Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### Discuss

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## The Path to Life Session 4

### Big Idea

It was Passover, the most important celebration in Jewish culture. This festival looks back to the time of Moses, when God freed the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. This particular Passover was going to be memorable for an important reason: it would change the entire world.

John 13–19 encompasses one single night and the following day in the life of Jesus and His disciples. It’s a tense time in the narrative. The pieces were already in play that would lead to the arrest and crucifixion of the Son of God. As we read, we watch them unfold almost in real time.

As Jesus gathered His closest followers together in an upper room to celebrate the Passover feast, He took the opportunity to make the final preparations they would need before launching out and taking His gospel to the nations.

In John 14 Jesus revealed something about Himself that’s essential to His character: He’s the only way to get to the Father.

### Opening

In the previous group session you were asked to name some distractions that keep you from seeing God. How did acknowledging things that distract you help you resist those distractions?

---

---

---

How did spending time in the Word this week adjust your focus on Jesus?

---

---

---

How did Jesus prove His sufficiency for you this week?

---

---

---

What else was meaningful to you this past week in your reading, journaling, or personal study? Why?

---

---

---

In this session we’ll see that Jesus is the exclusive path to the Father—a truth that greatly offends much of the world. In today’s video session Robby examines Jesus’ claim and explores ways it affects His followers daily.

### Watch

Jesus doesn’t say, “This is the way.” Jesus says, “\_\_\_\_\_ the way.”



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## The Path to Life Session 4

The Christian life is a \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_ us in His image.

He \_\_\_\_\_ us a promise.

He's \_\_\_\_\_ a place in heaven for us.

He's \_\_\_\_\_ back to get us.

How does this passage highlight the need for us to share the gospel?

---

---

---

What excuses are made for being hesitant to share this gospel truth?

---

---

---

## Read

When Robby began, he was in a hallway that had one entrance and one exit. The only way to get to the hallway was by the staircase in front of him, and the only way to get to the room behind him was by the hallway.

Why do you think it's hard for many people to come to grips with the fact that there's only one way to the Father?

---

---

---

Read aloud John 14:1-6.

What ways do people try to find God other than through Jesus?

---

---

---

Robby explained the context of Jesus' words in regard to cultural practices in preparation for a wedding. Jewish fathers negotiated a bride price, the son went back to his father's house to build a room for his bride, and then he returned one day to bring his bride home when everything was ready.

How does knowing something about Jewish wedding rituals help you understand what Jesus was telling His disciples in these verses?

---

---

---

While the groom was preparing a place for his bride, there was no sure way to know when he was coming back. It entirely depended on when his father decided the son's room was ready to receive her.

Describe what you think was going through the bride's mind while the groom was away.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## The Path to Life Session 4

---

---

---

Knowing the groom was coming back to get her, the bride needed to make sure she was ready when he arrived. That way when she saw him cresting the hill and coming toward her house, she didn't have to collect her things or prepare herself to be taken away. She was ready at a moment's notice.

How would you explain what Jesus has gone to do for us?

---

---

---

What responsibility do we have, like a first-century Jewish bride, once we understand what Jesus has gone to do?

---

---

---

What does that responsibility look like in the different aspects of your daily life?

---

---

---

## Pray

Jesus' statement "You know the way to where I am going" (v. 4) may have initially confused the disciples, but it makes perfect sense. The bride wouldn't necessarily know where her new house was, but she certainly knew the way there: the bridegroom was coming back to get her.

In the same way, we can know for certain the only way to get back to the Father. It's through Jesus Christ, the One who's already been there and is coming back for us.

- If you took stock of your life right now, would you say you're living as if your Groom is coming back to get you?
- How is the knowledge that Jesus is the only way to the Father challenging, encouraging, or insightful for you?







# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## SESSION 5

### Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### Discuss

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

## Experiencing the Kingdom Session 5

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

### Big Idea

The sheer concept of God—the everlasting Creator of the entire universe who’s bigger than the stars He made, more powerful than the storms He controls, and seated on His throne in a realm of splendor we can’t even imagine—is difficult for some people to come to terms with.

We all have a tendency to think that way. If we aren’t careful, we can slip into the same trap of thinking that what we see is all there is. Or we may begin to place eternal significance on things that are going to go away.

Through a conversation with a Pharisee named Nicodemus, we’ll see how Jesus shed some light on a subject that escaped even one of the most renowned teachers of Israel: the kingdom of God. We’ll also see how understanding what Jesus told Nicodemus changed the course of his life.

### Opening

In the previous group session you considered the great price that was paid and the preparation God made for a loving covenant relationship with you. How did understanding the tremendous value your Heavenly Father sees in you affect the way you saw your life this past week?

---

---

---

When was it helpful this week to remember that your life is a walk of faith? Were there times when you felt discouraged that you weren’t further along? Were you encouraged to know that you needed to take each moment step-by-step?

---

---

---

In what ways did the exclusive nature of knowing God by following the Son affect your daily walk?

---

---

---

What else was meaningful to you this past week in your reading, journaling, or personal study? Why?

---

---

---

In this session we’ll see where Nicodemus went when he had questions. We’re going to look at his conversation with Jesus and come to realize that nothing has changed in the two thousand years since this conversation occurred. The kingdom of God is at hand, and we’re each responsible for where we place our faith.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Experiencing the Kingdom Session 5

### Watch

The kingdom of God was not \_\_\_\_\_.  
It was \_\_\_\_\_.

The Hebrews knew that the kingdom of God was not just a Person in Jesus, but it was a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

The kingdom of God is not a \_\_\_\_\_ place you have to wait to go to. It's a present power in your life \_\_\_\_\_.

When God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in our life, when God is calling the shots, that's how the kingdom comes today.

If a person is born once, they die \_\_\_\_\_.  
But if you're born twice, you only die \_\_\_\_\_.

While Jesus' death is sufficient for all, it's only effectual for those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Read

Robby mentioned that Nicodemus's coming to Jesus at night was significant in at least three ways:

1. Rabbis generally studied and learned at night.

2. The cloak of darkness would have made him less likely to be discovered by someone.
3. Night and darkness are frequently used to describe a heart that's far from God.

Read John 3:1-18.

What do you typically do to get answers to spiritual questions? What books or study tools have been helpful? To whom do you go with questions?

---

---

---

In what ways has this group been a safe place to ask honest questions?

---

---

---

When was a time you had an honest question but were afraid to ask it in case someone overheard you? What was/is the question?

---

---

---

Robby mentioned several ways God is a coming-down God and explained that other people before Christ had prophesied the coming of the kingdom of God.

How does it change your perspective to know that God has initiated a relationship with you?



# THE LOVE OF GOD

## Experiencing the Kingdom

### Session 5

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

---

---

---

Although we don't know Nicodemus's immediate reaction, Robby pointed out that this isn't the last time we see him in Scripture. At the end of Jesus' life, Nicodemus made provisions for Jesus after He died on the cross. His actions seem to prove his loyalty to and belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

If someone were writing your biography and wanted to include something that demonstrated your belief in Jesus, what do you think they would write?

---

---

---

As a Christian, how do you want to be remembered?

---

---

---

Robby concluded by asking whether you have been born again, experiencing the kingdom of God in your own life. It's important to take time and encourage one another as believers by sharing our stories. What did you first know about Jesus?

---

---

---

How would you describe the lostness or darkness in your life before believing in Jesus?

---

---

---

How has the new birth changed your life for the sake of God's kingdom? Although we most often stop with John 3:16, why is it important to recognize the urgency and seriousness of verses 17-18?

---

---

---

## Pray

Take time to reflect on your life, thoughts, and desires. Are there things you would rather shove into a cupboard than expose? List them. You don't have to show your list to anybody, but simply writing it down is important.

Take time to pray for the strength to release those things, whether they're sins, strongholds, or fear. Lay them at the feet of Jesus, who was raised up so that we could live.





# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
WILL NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## SESSION 6

### Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### Discuss

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Seeking in Our Doubt Session 6

### Big Idea

Aside from Jesus' inner circle of disciples (Peter, James, and John), Thomas is perhaps the most famous. He didn't write a Gospel, He didn't speak a great number of lines in Scripture, and his post-Gospel history is largely speculative. Yet we remember him vividly.

He's the doubter. Doubting Thomas, we call him. In just a few lines his reputation has been sealed in our minds—though perhaps unfairly.

God is more remarkable the more we see Him and the more we see those He uses. He specifically chose Thomas because he represented what Jesus was most interested in. Therefore, Thomas is someone we can learn from.

Thomas may not be the doubter after all. Maybe it's time to think of him as something different. This week we're going to explore what true seekers of Christ look like.

### Opening

In the previous group session you were asked to consider secrets you were keeping hidden deep in your heart. Did you do anything this week to expose those things to God?

---

---

---

Did you seek out anybody to share your burdens with? Explain how that felt.

---

---

---

What else was meaningful to you this past week in your reading, journaling, or personal study? Why?

---

---

---

In this session we'll meet a disciple of Jesus who was prone to internalizing things, who was probably highly introverted, who has received an unfair reputation over the years, and yet who was perhaps one of Jesus' most honest seekers and most devoted followers. Let's watch as Robby explains who Thomas was so that we can try to be more like him.

### Watch

Thomas was \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

Thomas desired to \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.

Thomas's doubt leads to \_\_\_\_\_.



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Seeking in Our Doubt Session 6

Thomas is not an unbelieving \_\_\_\_\_.  
He's a distressed \_\_\_\_\_.

Thomas is longing for one final encounter with his rabbi, \_\_\_\_\_,

God can use our \_\_\_\_\_ to deepen our faith.

It's not how you \_\_\_\_\_. It's how you \_\_\_\_\_.

### Read

What preconceived ideas about Thomas did you have before hearing Robby's teaching?

Did Robby's teaching change your opinion of Thomas? Why or why not?

In what ways has this group been a safe place to ask honest questions?

Robby explored three different Scripture passages that mention Thomas.

Read aloud John 11:11-16.

As Jesus informed His disciples that they were going back to Bethany, where He had just been rejected for claiming to be one with the Father, His disciples knew precisely the kind of danger He was in. They first tried to talk Him out of going by insisting that Lazarus would get better. When have you been hesitant to trust God? What kinds of excuses do you often offer for not doing what the Lord calls you to do?

Notice what Thomas said in verse 16: "Let's go so that we may die with Him."

Is there anything you would be willing to die for? If so, what?

Read aloud John 14:1-7.

Thomas's question proves the second aspect of his nature: he was devoted not only to Jesus but also to the truth. He wanted to understand even if it meant asking something Jesus may have considered a dumb question.

How committed are you to the truth, even if it's difficult to hear?



# THE LOVE OF GOD

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

## Seeking in Our Doubt Session 6

Read aloud John 20:24-29.

Thomas was noticeably absent when Jesus appeared the first time. Robby speculated that the reason Thomas was missing wasn't that he feared for his life (he had already proved that he was willing to die for Jesus) but that he was so wracked with sadness and grief that he couldn't bear to be around others so soon after his Master died.

If you had been in Thomas's position, how would you have reacted to the news that Jesus was back?

---

---

---

What kind of proof do you ask from Jesus to prove Himself?

---

---

---

When Jesus finally appeared to Thomas, He presented him with exactly the evidence he had asked to see. Jesus knew the heart of His disciple and was prepared to remove every barrier to his belief.

What proves to you that Jesus is who He says He is?

---

---

---

Would you consider yourself a passive believer or an active seeker of Jesus?

---

---

---

What has been challenging, encouraging, or insightful from the case of the famous doubter Thomas?

---

---

---

## Pray

If there's anything Thomas teaches us, it's that it's OK to ask questions. We see questions throughout Scripture. We see people pressing forward in their faith in spite of doubt, and that's OK because the opposite of belief isn't doubt but disobedience. Thomas may have had his doubts, but they weren't doubts leading to skepticism; they were doubts leading to his proclamation that Jesus was both Lord and God (see John 4:28).

- Make a list of doubts you have about God.
- Spend a few minutes in prayer bringing each one of your doubts to Jesus. Thank Him for being true even when you can't see tangible evidence.