

# Encounters With Jesus: Thomas

April 4, 2021

**Scriptures:** John 20:19-29; Matthew 28:16-17

**Bottom Line:** Jesus meets you where you're at, and welcomes you to join Him in the middle of your doubts and questions.

Jesus' disciples didn't all start believing at the same time.

## The Variable Pace of Belief

John believes Jesus has risen from the dead at the empty tomb **(Jn. 20:1-10)**

Mary and some other disciples believe when Jesus appears to them physically **(Jn. 20:11-23)**

Thomas does not believe the testimony of the other disciples, but does believe when Jesus appears to him in the same way He appeared to the other disciples **(Jn. 20:23-29)**

Some of the 12 disciples still doubt Jesus' resurrection as He's giving them the great commission **(Matt. 28:16-17)**

## God Meets Us Where We're At

- Everyone has questions and doubts, some more than others
- Doubts don't keep God from meeting with you
- Jesus wants to meet you wherever you are and help you believe in Him

## Jesus Commissions the Doubting

- The Great Commission is given to a mixed bag of believing and doubting disciples
- Wherever you are, Jesus invites you to join Him in His work of restoration

## We Encounter Jesus Through the Church

- God made humans to represent Him in the world. He's still making Himself known through the Church, and He wants to do that through you

# LISTENING

Have someone in your group share a time where they encountered Jesus.:

- Set the scene! What was going on in your life at the time?
- How did you meet God? Was it through a person? Scripture?
- What was the message or feeling? What did it mean to you at that time?  
Has the meaning changed over time?

Take some time to see if anyone encountered Jesus through the story. Did He use this story to teach or encourage someone? Convict someone?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What doubts or questions have you had through your journey towards God? Has anyone else in the group had the same experience?
3. How have you encountered Jesus through the Church?
4. In what areas are you still not believing the Good News about Jesus? Are there places in your life that you don't think His grace can touch? Are there things you don't believe He can set you free from?