

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been skeptical of faith? Have you questioned reports of the supernatural? What can we learn about faith and skepticism from one of the world's most famous "doubters"?

GETTING STARTED

1. Are you by nature a skeptical person or a trusting person? Why?
2. Describe a time when skepticism served you well?

BIBLE IDEA

3. We meet, Thomas, one of the most famous "doubters". What aspect of Thomas' story can you identify with and why? (John 20:24-31)
4. We all deal with skepticism regarding the Christian faith. We either are skeptics, we know skeptics, or we are afraid of becoming a skeptic. How does skepticism impact you?
5. What are the costs of skepticism? If you continue to have unresolved doubt, but do nothing to resolve it, what may that cost you in the future?
6. Many people, who would now call themselves believers, began as a skeptic. If that was you, how did you cultivate faith? What made the biggest difference for you?

NEXT STEPS

7. What is an area of skepticism that you need to address? What are the practical steps you need to take to resolve it?
8. Describe how you would behave differently if skepticism were replaced with belief? What impact would that have on your life?

The Intellect of Faith

The Followers #5

Featured Follower: Thomas

John 20:24-29

²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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." ²⁶A 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!" ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Faith has nothing to do with shutting off your mind and everything to do with opening your _____ to the presence of God!

2 Corinthians 4:18; Hebrews 11:1-3

How to Cultivate Belief:

- A. Bring your _____ to Jesus.
- B. Let Him _____ through His Word.
- C. Don't _____ yourself from the gathering of the saints.
- D. _____ your faith.