



Week 1

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE JOHN 20:24 - 31

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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." 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!" 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." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Have you ever said to someone "I'll believe it when I see it?" What are some of the reasons you might say that phrase?
2. Do you think it's possible not to believe in anything?
3. What does the statement "we choose what we believe" mean? Is that statement ever untrue? Are there different levels to belief? If so, what are they?
4. Outside of what's discussed about the Apostle Thomas in the account recorded in John 20, what else do you know about Thomas?
5. Read John 11:14-16 and John 14:1-6. Do these recorded statements/questions from Thomas seem consistent or inconsistent with Thomas' behavior in today's passage of scripture (John 20:24-31)? Why?
6. Do you think the nickname "doubting Thomas" is fair or unfair? Can you relate to Thomas' response?
7. Have you ever heard someone say, "If God has something to tell me, he'll say it to be directly"? How is Thomas' response similar to that statement? What is the tragedy of this kind of statement?
8. What can we learn from Thomas' character, his relationship with the disciples, and his relationship with Jesus? In what ways should we be more like Thomas? In what ways should we be different from Thomas?

STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. A lot of the time in life, we can base our beliefs on what makes sense versus what doesn't make sense. Having faith in Jesus definitely has aspects that make sense to us but also leaves us with many different questions. Why is it difficult for you to believe/have faith in something that does not fully make sense sometimes? Explain.
2. Describe/write down what comes to your mind when you think about God knowing the desires of your heart even without you telling him. Write down things you are encouraged by AND things you are convicted about when thinking about that.
3. In what areas of your life do you have confidence in Jesus? In what areas in your life do you not have confidence in Jesus? Explain both.
4. Besides being at church or reading scripture, what is one of the best ways you are able to get to know who Jesus is better? Why?
5. Scripture exists to give us hope about who God is and shape our lives to be more like Christ. Which of those two aspects do you find more difficult to experience when reading scripture? Why?

Here's Your Challenge:

- Pick out a passage/story in scripture. Read that same passage each day this week, and write down something new you learned from it each day.
- Write down:
 - Questions you have - search for answers to those questions or ask someone for help.
 - How you see Jesus differently because of this passage.
 - What you need to do differently in your life because of what it says and how you can personally make that change.

KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. God talks to us in different ways. Sometimes God uses other people to speak to us! Have you ever heard God speak to you through someone else? Have your parents told you that you are special and wonderfully made? Have you read that truth in the book of Psalms? This is God speaking to you! What else have you heard God say through someone else?
2. To have doubt means to not be certain about something. When you doubt, you have questions and wonder whether something is true. Maybe you wondered if babies came from storks? Maybe you doubted whether the world was truly round and not flat. Maybe you doubted that gum truly took 7 years to digest. Doubt is not a bad thing. Doubting just means you are not sure about something and you want more information. What have you had doubts about in your life?
3. The Bible never gives Thomas the name, "Doubting Thomas." Humans have given the disciple this name over the years. What have you doubted about God? What questions have you wanted Him to answer so you could understand Him?
4. Can you think of something you cannot see but you know exists? How is this like Jesus?
5. God's Word is a tool for us like a microscope that helps see a virus. Can you think of something in God's Word that gives you hope and shows you that there is NO DOUBT that Jesus is alive?

Family Activities:

- Elementary: Jesus can transform our doubt into faith. What do you have in your house that is like a Transformer? Take some time to create something new out of something that is already in your home.
- Preschool and Elementary: Thomas wanted to see the nail prints and the scar on Jesus' side to believe that Jesus died on the cross. It is important to remember his death because it brought us new life! Use a sharpie or marker to mark your family's hands and feet to remember Jesus. Another option would be to draw a picture and mark them this way.