



Small Group Discussion Guide For the week of April 21 - April 27, 2024

Main Thought and Scriptures:

In life, all of us will experience doubts as it relates to our faith. Doubt often arises from unmet expectations such as unanswered questions, seemingly unfair circumstances, or unresolved hurts. Thomas, one of the disciples, expressed doubt about a resurrected Jesus. Thomas stated that he wouldn't believe unless he saw and touched Jesus' wounds. Jesus eventually revealed himself to Thomas, causing Him to believe. Jesus later emphasized that those who believe without seeing are even more blessed.

It's important to recognize that doubt doesn't indicate weak or flawed faith; rather, it's a natural part of our journey toward growing in faith. What truly matters is how we respond to doubt.

What should we do when doubts arise?

- **Examine your expectations.**

Thomas, like the other disciples, expected Jesus to avoid death and deliver Israel from Roman rule. Jesus didn't meet those expectations because His plans to save the world from sin required His sacrificial death. Often our expectations don't align with God's will.

- **Position yourself for an encounter with Jesus.**

"Now Thomas...was not with the disciples when Jesus came...A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them." (John 20:24, 26)

Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus revealed himself to the disciples. Even in his doubt, Thomas remained in the community of faith. This connection eventually led to a profound encounter with Jesus that resolved his doubts.

- **Seek God in His Word.**

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17 NIV)

It is important to feed our faith when dealing with doubt. By immersing ourselves in Scripture, we can find reassurance and guidance to navigate through our doubts.

- **Choose to walk in faith, even when you don't understand.**

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)

Faith isn't the absence of doubt, it is the means to push through it. Make a decision to continue pursuing God amidst uncertainty, knowing that He is faithful and trustworthy.



Discussion Questions:

(Break into groups of 3-5 to discuss, choose the questions that best apply to your group)

- As you reflect on the main thought, passages, and the weekend sermon, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why? Explain.
- Share about a time when you doubted your faith or had questions for God. How did you navigate that experience?
- Is there an area of your life where you are struggling with doubt? How can you apply today's discussion to your situation?

Prayer:

(Break into pairs and pray)

- Pray for one another to keep on trusting God amid doubt.
- Pray for opportunities to share our faith with someone far from God.

Memory Verse Challenge:

Challenge yourself to memorize this verse by reciting and praying it every day before bed, when you wake up, and any time throughout the day.

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