

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 2 - May 8, 2021

The Risen Life

John 20: 24-29: From Doubt to Belief

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

When you first believed, what was the first thing that changed in your life?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS

Moving from doubt to belief involves hearing testimony, seeing the evidence, and responding in faith.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read John 20:19-23.** In this passage, Jesus reveals his wounds to his disciples, which was always the case when Jesus spoke to them after the resurrection. How does Jesus reveal Himself to us today? How has He revealed Himself to you?
2. **Read John 20:24-25.** The text of this passage earned Thomas the lasting nickname of "Doubting Thomas". Do you believe that this is a fair way to remember Thomas? Were his doubts any more evident than those of the other disciples? Why or why not?
 - a. Timothy Keller said, "A faith without some doubts is like a human body without any antibodies in it." Explain your understanding of this statement. Is it a good analogy? Why or why not?
 - b. Gerry Bershears said, "Doubt can be a dark enemy that leaves faith in shambles, or the catalyst to a deeper, better founded, more contagious faith." Discuss the idea that doubt can be vital to our faith.
 - c. Pastor Nick said: Doubt is not how faith ends, but how trust begins. Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. **Read John 20:26-29.** In this passage, Jesus invited Thomas to touch His wounds, but there is no evidence that Thomas did. What, then, brought Thomas to believe?
 - a. Do you believe that Jesus knew of the exact proof Thomas needed for belief? If so, how do you believe He knew this?
 - b. It is said that Thomas' profession of faith is the most profound in the New Testament. Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - c. **Read John 1:1.** The beginning of the Gospel of John and the end both contain the same profession, that Jesus is God. What passages can you recall within the book of John that support this claim?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

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