

## SAINT SKEPTIC

### How do I believe when I have such doubts?

John 20:24-31



## Small Groups

### Getting Started

Has someone ever told you a tall tale? A story that either seemed too good to be true or seriously exaggerated? What was your reaction? Did you laugh? Question it? Wonder about the trustworthiness of the person telling it? Another reaction?

### Read and Reflect

Read the Bible text listed above.

What is Thomas' reaction to the story that the disciples tell him? Why do you think he responded the way that he did?

When Jesus appears, what does he ask of Thomas? How does Thomas react?

What does Jesus say next? What does that statement mean to us today?

Thinking about who Thomas was and how well he knew Jesus, do you think that his unbelief was reasonable or not?

Do you have any additional insights or particular questions about this week's scripture?

## Engage and Discuss

Read Isaiah 55:8. What does this scripture tell us about God? What does it tell us about our ability to know and understand God?

Pastor Meyer tells us that doubt is a natural part of faith development. Do you agree with him? Have you ever been worried by having doubts about your own faith?

Christian poet, Madeleine L'Engle, puts it this way: "If you don't doubt, you don't change. If you don't ask questions, you stay stuck wherever you were. If you have to have finite answers to infinite questions, you're not going to move... The value of doubt," says L'Engle, "is to keep you open to God's revelation." What does this quote reveal about doubt? Have you ever considered doubt as valuable?

Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced doubt that led you to a new revelation about God? If you are comfortable, please share it with the group.

Pastor Meyer says, "faith can't finally be dependent on empirical proof alone." Do you agree with this statement? What does it mean to your own faith development?

## Next Steps

In the conclusion of this week's sermon, Pastor Meyer says that "faith is not a possession so much as a process." This means that we don't simply get it once and are done. Instead it is a journey that we travel throughout the remainder of our lives.

- Spend some time in prayer this week considering where you currently have doubts. Try looking to scripture, talking to a trusted friend or pastor, or simply asking God for guidance.
- Do you know where you currently are in your faith journey? Do you know what next steps you should take to keep moving forward and growing? If so, think of one concrete step that you can take this coming week to intentionally move forward. If not, consider going online to [www.i-engage.org/cc-ob](http://www.i-engage.org/cc-ob) to take a spiritual life inventory that will help you discover your current place in the journey and provide you with intentional Bible study and next step activities for growth.