CHECK INS: Let's check in quick with each other; how are we doing folks...?!? 10.5.25 - SERMON RECAP:

This week we looked into the passage of John 20:24-29, where Thomas adamantly needed to see Jesus' risen body, or he would never believe. We talked about the dynamics at play when we face traumatic times and allow our feelings to trump what we know to be true. This can be a struggle for us from time to time, but how can we continue to grow to remain anchored to the Word of God and His Ways in our lives, regardless of if we 'see' His hand at work or not?? Turn in our bibles to John 20:24-29. (As a group, lets take turns reading this scripture together; and then ponder/discuss these questions for our lives.)

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

- 1. Read Hebrews 11:1. What does it mean for faith to be both confident (Heb. 11:1) and yet honest about doubt (Thomas)? How can we hold those together in our personal walk??
- 2. Thinking on a recent hardship in your own life, how did you handle it in terms of trying to trust in God's provision all the while feeling the emotions of fear and doubt?
- 3. When we think about hard moments in life, what is our first response or reaction typically?
- 4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. What daily practices help us truly "walk by faith" when our senses or circumstances say otherwise??
- 5. Why, do you suppose, doesn't Thomas take his fellow disciples confirmation that Jesus was alive- but needed to see for himself? What questions would YOU be asking if you were Thomas?
- 6. How do we distinguish between healthy, God-honest doubt that leads to growth and an unbelieving cynicism that resists evidence and relationship? Which New Testament passages (e.g., James 2:19; Acts 17:11) help us discern the difference??
- 7. Read Romans 8:16. How have you experienced the Spirit confirming belief apart from external proof? How should the community of faith test and honor such inner witnesses?
- 8. Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds (John 20:27). What does Jesus' approach teach us about the pastoral care of doubters in the church how do we balance truth-telling with tenderness??
- 9. What is God beckoning you to trust His provision for you life-walk today?
- 10. Take time to share these specific things with our community and lets pray for each other in these areas.

## LIFE APPLICATION / PRAYER:

What is one application from this passage that you want to live out?

## How Does ALL THIS Apply to our Values?



Compassionate Engagement (1)





