

No Doubt

John 20:24-28

"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." - John 20:27

Main Point: God can answer your questions and help you live without doubt.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When have you doubted someone in your life? A telemarketer, a family member, a friend?

How did you work through your doubt when someone told you a tall tale? Have you ever done this with the Bible and the stories told in the Gospels?

Jesus had been crucified and there were rumors of his resurrection. People claimed they had seen the risen Lord, but some were filled with doubt because they had not seen Him with their own eyes. There are times in our life when we doubt God's presence, power, and protection in our lives. Having questions is not wrong, but consistently living in doubt can destroy your faith. To overcome that doubt you must be willing to seek the truth.

To have freedom over doubt it is important that you:

1. TAKE YOUR TIME. Have a volunteer read JOHN 20:24-26.

Thomas jumped to the conclusion that Jesus couldn't have possibly been alive. When have you made up your mind about someone or something without giving it time?

Proverbs 19:2 says "Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way." (ESV) How does this passage apply to Thomas' situation and hasty decisions we make?

What questions do you have about the Christian faith? Share them with the group. How can you work together and take the time to seek the truth?

Read **Proverbs 23:23**. Referring to this verse, Matthew Henry's commentary says, "Riches should be employed for the getting of knowledge, rather than knowledge for the getting of riches. When we are at pains in searching after truth, that we may come to the knowledge of it and may distinguish between it and error, then we buy it." Discuss the importance of seeking truth and the price you're willing to pay for it.

2. CHECK THE EVIDENCE. Have a volunteer read JOHN 20:27.

What did Jesus encourage Thomas to do once he appeared to him? How does he beckon us to do the same today?

Of the evidence presented Sunday which is most convincing to you? The massive amount of ancient New Testament writings, the archeological evidence, the martyrdom of the disciples? What other evidence is there of the Bible's authenticity and Jesus existence?

3. RESPOND TO THE EVIDENCE. Have a volunteer read JOHN 20:28.

What was Thomas' response to seeing Jesus? Would you have found this evidence compelling enough to believe?

What are you doing in response to Jesus presence in your life now? How has the reality of His resurrection been made alive in you?

Read v. 29. What gentle rebuke does Jesus give Thomas? What does this encounter teach you about how Jesus responds to the doubts of his followers?

If your answer was solely based on this encounter alone, how would you answer the question, "Is it OK to doubt?" Explain.

Pray:

If you are struggling with your faith or an aspect of the Christian faith, ask the Lord to show you the answers you seek and bring the truth to light. Pray for the faith to overcome your doubts and fears. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in finding wisdom and truth through the Scriptures and the counsel of other believers. Seek truth and buy it at any cost!

Coming up the Life of VillageChurch:

May 5: Faith and Family Night with the Fireflies

May 14: Baby Dedication

- Send full name of child to be dedicated to kerri@blythewoodvillage.com

May 28: Graduation Sunday

- Send picture of your graduate and name of school graduating from and where they are heading to james@blythewoodvillage.com

July 10-12: Vacation Bible School