

## Discussion Guide: The Doubters

### Opening Questions:

What did faith look like in your home growing up?

When did you first experience doubt? Which “big” questions of faith have you been asking?

### Looking at Scripture:

Read John 20:24-29.

Prior to verse 24, we learn that Jesus has died and the disciples are in hiding. Suddenly, the resurrected Jesus appears to them. Given this context, describe how the disciples may have been feeling in the above verses. What is it about painful circumstances that cause us to question what we know?

In verse 25, the disciples explain to Thomas what had just happened. His response isn't what we'd expect from someone who spent years with Jesus. Can you relate to his honesty? Do you think it's easy to be honest about our doubts?

John notes in verse 26 that over a week had passed between Thomas's initial doubt and Jesus appearing to him. This means Thomas sat for eight days in his doubt and in his pain, but he was never asked to leave. What does this tell us about the importance of community? What role does community play in our doubts?

Jesus appears to Thomas in verses 27-29, showing him the proof of his resurrection. What does this tell us about the way Jesus views us in our doubt?

### Application Questions:

What makes doubt so scary? What is your typical first response when a friend shares the doubts they are having? Do you find that different responses work well in different situations?

This week we discussed that **JESUS DOESN'T DOUBT YOU IN YOUR DOUBT**. In other words, the work of Jesus isn't dependent on our belief. He is faithful to answer our questions, even when the answers don't come in the way we'd expect. How does this change the way you encounter doubt, or discuss it with someone who is doubting?

If we're being gut level honest, would we rather see the answers to our questions or see God and know His presence is with us? Which of those makes more of a difference in our spiritual and emotional health?

Do you ever struggle for a little while as you're expecting God to show Himself, only to give up on that and get even more discouraged? What helps you to keep trusting, keep looking?

End your time together praying. Ask God to bring to mind moments of his presence in your life. Pray for any requests the group might have.