



Coming Back from Doubts

Leaders Tips

April 13/14, 2013

Connect with Others *(Choose one)*

- 1. What was the biggest doubt or obstacle you needed to overcome in order to embrace Jesus as your personal Lord & Savior?**
- 2. Tell us what nicknames you've been given over the years — or what nicknames you've given to others.**

Commit to Growth

Read John 20:24-31

- 1. Read Luke 24:38-39; John 20:19. When did the other disciples believe and how was their doubt different than that of Thomas?**

Thomas gets a bad rap with the nickname Doubting Thomas. Notice that the other disciples did not believe until they had seen the risen Lord and touched His wounds. Thomas asked for nothing more than what the other disciples had already experienced. We should not single Thomas out as if his doubts were more pronounced than the others. Instead, we should applaud the fact that he quickly believed once he was given the evidence.

- 2. How did Jesus deal with Thomas' doubts and what does that say to us about our own doubts (20:27)?**

The Lord answered the doubts of Thomas by giving him clear evidence. This encounter should give us great encouragement to know that even the Lord's disciples had their own doubts.

- 3. Discuss the significance of Jesus' first "word" to Thomas (20:26). What can we learn from Jesus' words and this encounter about helping people who have doubts about the Christian faith?**

Jesus' first word to Thomas was, "Peace" not "Shame". It was a perfect word to start with, because where doubts are, there is no peace.

4. How does Thomas' attitude – both before and after Jesus appears to Him – add credibility to the gospel?

You gotta love this! The Bible isn't a book of myths and legends for who would put himself in as a doubter! This is clearly evidence for the truthfulness and authenticity of the Bible!

5. Can you think of a time when you struggled with doubts about your faith? What were the circumstances? How did you deal with them? How does this passage encourage you to deal with them?

When in doubt you can publish your doubts, ignore your doubts, hide your doubts or take your doubts honestly to the Lord. In this passage, we are encouraged to bring them to the Lord and to wrestle through them with Him.

6. When you have doubts in your faith, what have you found helpful? What steps will you take to overcome your doubts in the days ahead?

Pray