

Students - Cell Group Discipleship Study Guide

John 20:24-31

Subject: If You Have Doubts, Check Jesus Out

Scripture: **John 20:24-31** - *24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 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." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." 30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* (NIV)

II. OBJECTIVE – Goal: To show you that faith is progressive (Rom. 10:17; 2 Pet 3:18). **Challenge:** To believe in the historical fact of the resurrection even though you weren't there (Acts 1:1-3) and share it with others (Matt. 28:19-20). Real faith is based upon the Word of God (John 20:30-31). **Benefit:** If you believe in the gospel message, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you will be saved (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 10:9-10).

II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT - As we come to our text, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-2, 11-18); Peter and John (John 20:3-10), the ten disciples (John 20:19-23); "Doubting" Thomas (John 20:24-29); and to many others (1 Cor. 15:5-8).

Questions and Answers from Sunday's Message for Discussion

A. The _____ of Jesus (Vs. 19-23).

1. The _____ of Thomas (Vs. 24-25).

a. The _____ for His Doubts (V. 24). *24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.*

b. The _____ for Thomas to Believe (V. 25). *25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."*

Does God expect us to believe? What evidence has God given us to help us believe?

2. The _____ by Thomas (Vs. 26-29).

a. The _____ (V. 26). *26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"*

b. The _____ (V. 27). 27 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."

Has Jesus every manifested Himself to you and invited you to check Him out?

c. The _____ (V. 28). 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

d. The _____ (V. 29). 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Is seeing always believing? What does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight? (2 Cor. 5:7)

B. The _____ of Jesus (V. 30). 30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

Can you name one of the seven Jesus performed in the Gospel of John?

C. The _____ of John (V. 31). 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (NIV)

What the primary purpose of the Bible and the Gospels in particularly?

III. **CLOSE** – Faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the heart of the Gospel message. A person cannot become a Christian without believing in the resurrection (see Rom. 10:9-10). The question is, do you believe?

Application

1. We need to make sure your faith is grounded in the truth of the resurrection.
2. We need to have a personal encounter with Jesus.
3. Every time we read the Word and experience God in worship our faith will growth.
4. The purpose of the Bible is to help us to know God better and not just to increase our knowledge.

We are growing **Warmer** through **Fellowship**, **Deeper** through **Discipleship**, **Stronger** through **Worship**, **Broader** through **Ministry**, **Larger** through **Evangelism**, **Healthier** and **Wealthier** through **Stewardship**. (Acts 2:41-47)

Memory Verse: **John 20:29** - Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (NIV)