

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. *If you had the opportunity to ask Jesus any question and receive an answer, what would you ask and why?*
2. *Have you ever had a conversation with a doubter? How do you typically handle other people's doubts? Do you feel comfortable or uncomfortable discussing doubts that others wrestle with?*
3. *Do you think Thomas should have been referred to as doubting Thomas? Why?*
4. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

Over the centuries, people have had different perspectives on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes we forget that, even amongst those that witnessed Jesus' life, multiple views existed. Thomas was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He witnessed Jesus' miracles, he heard Jesus' sermons, he even heard Jesus say he was going to die and rise again; yet even Thomas had some doubts. From Thomas' vantage point we discover how to understand our own doubts.

- *Read John 11:16; 20:24-25. In your opinion, what changed Thomas' strong faith to one of doubt? What things have you seen change people similarly? What can we do to help those we know whose faith is shaky?*

- *Read John 20:26-29. What promise does Jesus give for those that believe in Jesus even though they did not see and touch Jesus like Thomas experienced? What personally makes you have faith in Jesus even though you have never seen nor touched him? Share with your group.*
- *What do you think Paul meant in 2 Corinthians 5:6-7? How do Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13:12 compare or contrast?*
- *In your opinion, what role do doubts and questions have in developing a deeper faith in Jesus? What doubts or questions have you had that helped develop your faith?*
- *Read James 1:5-8. What does James say about doubt? If doubts are a normal part of the process in growing our faith, how do we reconcile this passage with our doubts?*
- *How much faith does a person need to be a Christian? Read Matt 17:20. In order to be a Christian, what must a person believe? Why? What scriptures support your opinion?*

Digging Deeper

- *What causes doubt in you? How have you worked through those doubts?*
- *What doubts do you think will remain unanswered for you?*

“VANTAGE POINT: THOMAS”

John 20:24-28 // March 19, 2017

John 20:24-25 (ESV) Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin (Didymus), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

WHEN SOMETHING **SHAKES** OUR FAITH,
OUR FAITH BECOMES **SHAKY**.

John 14:1-5 (ESV) Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

THOMAS’ VANTAGE POINT SHOWS US THAT
FAITH COEXISTS WITH **QUESTIONS**.

John 14:5-7 (ESV) Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

THOMAS’ VANTAGE POINT SHOWS US
THAT FAITH COEXISTS WITH **DOUBTS**.

John 20:26-28 (ESV) Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

“THE **WEAKEST** IN FAITH ALONG WITH THE
STRONGEST IN FAITH GET THE SAME STRONG
CHRIST.”

– Sinclair Ferguson

THREE THINGS GOD KNOWS ABOUT FAITH THAT WE FORGET...

1. A LITTLE FAITH OVERCOMES **GREAT DOUBT**.

Matthew 17:20 (NIV) For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. DOUBTS CAUSE US TO **SEEK MORE** OF GOD.

3. FAITH IS A **PROCESS**.