



Small Group Study Guide for April 7, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: “Jesus Cares for Doubters” Jesus pays a visit to the disciples after being raised from the dead, but Thomas missed His appearance. He doubts Jesus is alive. For eight days, they sit with one another as Thomas claims that only seeing Jesus in person and touching His wounds would stop him from doubting. When Jesus shows up to offer His hands and side for Thomas to feel, He can’t help but confess, “My Lord and My God.” Jesus is our Lord who cares for doubters. Jesus gets down on Thomas’ level to encourage him, but He doesn’t leave him there in His doubt. He lifts him up and commands him to believe. We don’t see Jesus in that same way today, but we hear the truth of His resurrection on that Easter morning in God’s Word. Thanks be to God for Jesus’ words for us today, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” May our prayer be for hearts that believe as we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What’s something you doubted you would ever live to see as a child that has now become a norm in the year 2024?
2. What are some big questions you wrestle with that can cause doubtful thoughts?

In the Word: Read John 20:19-31

3. Thomas is specific to demand for Jesus’ nail marks in his hands and the hole in His side where the spear entered His body in order to believe. Why does He get so specific in His demands to touch Jesus?
4. How many days did the disciples wait in tension before Jesus arrived (verse 26), and how do you think that period of waiting impacted the disciples?
5. Why do you think Thomas doubts? To what extent might have Jesus’ crucifixion impacted the disciples’ emotional state?

6. Jesus speaks to Thomas in exactly the same order Thomas doubts, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side.” How come Jesus is so specific in His command to Thomas?

7. Today, we can’t touch or see Jesus in the same way that Thomas did. Why are Jesus’ words of blessing in verse 29 both comforting and challenging to hear as people of *faith*?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

10. What kind of similarities or differences do you find with Thomas? Consider the last time you grappled with God’s will for your life. How does this Scripture narrative relieve those fears?

11. In every sin, there is a kernel of doubt. Adam and Eve doubted God’s Word in the garden. We continue the cycle of doubting God when we choose to sin today. In a culture full of doubts and fears, what makes *faith* the solution to love God and love others?

12. Jude 1:22 says, “Be merciful to those who doubt.” How might Jesus’ compassion for doubters be an example for how we listen to others?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for Your Son Jesus, and the compassion He had on Thomas when He doubted. Continue to remind us of Your promises that Jesus fulfilled in His death and resurrection. By the power of Your Spirit, help us to stop doubting and believe in Your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Next Week: Next week, we continue to follow the disciples’ journey after that Easter morning as they witness Jesus as their resurrected Lord and Savior. In their witness, we find comfort and assurance in His accomplished work of salvation for all people.