



Sermon Discussion Guide
Week of 04/16/2017

➤ *Icebreaker*

Tell everyone about your Easter- time at LifePoint- response of someone you invited to church- time with family etc.?

➤ *Announcements*

Invite someone to our new series "Faith and Doubt."

➤ *Prayer Time*

➤ *Discussion Questions*

Read the resurrection story in John 20:1-23. What do you think Peter, John, and Mary were thinking and feeling at different points in the story?

As good Jews, the disciples expected the Messiah to be a political and spiritual leader- to deliver them from Roman oppression. When Jesus died, their hopes and dreams

died too. How do we feel sometimes when God doesn't meet our expectations? How do different people respond when God doesn't make sense?

Thomas received the unfortunate nickname "doubting Thomas." What else do we learn from Scripture about Thomas? Why is that name quite unfair? What faith qualities do we see in this man that make the title "doubter" simplistic? See- Mark 3:13-19; Matthew 9:35-10:4; John 11:16; John 14:5.

All the disciples had bouts with doubt not just Thomas. Why is this part of the human condition? Many honest atheists will even tell you there are times they doubt their doubts. Why do we struggle from time to time with doubt? How does the contradictory information in our world affect us? What- according to John 20:24-31- does Jesus do for Thomas to address his doubts?

What emotion might we expect from Jesus after all His disciples bailed out on Him and doubted Him? How might we expect Jesus to approach Thomas? Why is it a relief to know that Jesus is not furious with us when we doubt?

How does God want us to respond to our bouts with doubt- see James 4:8; Psalm 14:2; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Hebrews 11:6; Deuteronomy 4:29-31; Jeremiah 29:13.

> *Conversational Prayer: Dear God help me...*