

## **Doubt | Seeking God in the Midst of Uncertainty** (John 20:24-31)

Have the claims of Christianity ever seemed unbelievable to you? Have you ever had the cloud of uncertainty and skepticism hang over you leading you to doubt your faith? Are you currently walking through the desert of cynicism and uncertainty? In John 20:24-31 we see that Jesus isn't intimidated by our questions and doubts. He is willing to meet us right in the midst of them and walk with us through the desert of doubt to a deeper and more robust faith. Are you willing to invite Jesus into your doubts to help guide you?

### **1. Doubting | Being honest** (John 20:24-25)

Doubting is to be split of mind. Two minds. Doubt is spiritual vertigo or dizziness. It happens when we see or experience something that our heart or head can't fully process. (See: Mt. 11:1-7 Mt. 14:22-33) We aren't alone or immune to doubt. It happens to the spiritually mature and immature alike (John the Baptist. Sarah & Abraham. Disciples. Thomas.)

The first place to start with our doubts is to be honest about them. Be honest with yourself. Be honest with others. Be honest with God. The way forward is not one of secrecy and shame but of honesty and humility.

### **2. Welcomed | The God who seeks those who doubt.** (John 20:26-28)

Jesus isn't intimidated or scared of your honest questions or doubts. Jesus invites us to engage our reason in following him. Jesus has abundant mercy and grace for those struggling with doubt. He knows what it's like. He welcomes you to follow him where you're at. Bring your doubts to him.

### **3. Blessed | Life found through faith in Jesus** (John 20:29-31)

Honest doubts and questions can deepen your faith if you allow it.

Faith isn't opposed to doubts or reason. Faith is holding on to what is true in spite of appearances. Faith is the pathway to true and abundant life. We're called to lovingly and faithfully walk out and others' doubts to Jesus. Let's figure it out together!

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. What stuck out for you in this passage or the sermon?
2. What is doubt? How do we see doubt portrayed in this passage and the Bible?
3. What causes doubt? What are common doubts you hear?
4. Who are some prominent figures in the Bible who struggled with doubt? Why is seeing that doubt can happen to anyone/everyone important?
5. How can doubt provide opportunities and dangers to our faith? What's the difference between those who've gone through doubt well and those who haven't?
6. What is Jesus' posture towards those who doubt? How does he interact with Thomas? How does this give us hope and freedom in our doubts?
7. What is faith? How does our faith interact with doubt and reason?
8. How does the gospel shape how we engage our doubts and the doubts of others?