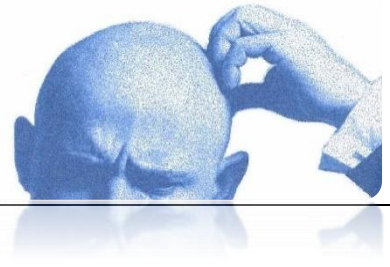


Jesus Appears to Thomas

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series during the season of Easter will look at resurrection appearances in John 20-21. Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **John 20:24-31**. What stands out for you in this story?
- Curiously Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus first appeared to them (20:19-23). Some commentators think this was Thomas' primary mistake, not his inability to believe in the resurrection. Which was the greater error—his isolation or his doubt?
- How does Jesus respond to Thomas? Why does Jesus accommodate Thomas' demand for evidence, especially in light of what he says in verse 29?
- Are faith and doubt mutually exclusive (you cannot have one without the other), or is it possible for them to co-exist? Explain your reasoning.
- Is doubt dangerous or honest? If dangerous, what is the danger?
- Read **James 1:5-8**. What is James concerned about? Is there a place for doubt?
- Have you ever had doubts about God? What this experience was like? How did you move beyond these doubts? Or did you move beyond them?
- What kind of "proof" do people need today to believe in God?
- Tradition holds that Thomas went on to be a missionary in India and that he eventually reached the Malabar coast (present-day Kerala). While establishing a church there, he was stabbed with a spear, dying from the wound. How does this knowledge inform how you understand his declaration in verse 28?
- In what way is Thomas an exemplar of the Christian life? Or is he?