

EASTER SUNDAY

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss why we should believe in Jesus. Talk about how Jesus responds to our doubts, fears, and faith. Discuss how Jesus is alive today and how he invites us to believe in him!

ICE BREAKER



What is something/somewhere that you thought was too good to be true based on how people talked about it until you experienced it yourself?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

John 20:24-29 ESV

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So 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.”

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ Then 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.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: The living Jesus invites us to believe in Him!

Key Question: Why should I believe in Jesus?

1. Jesus knows our doubts. (vv. 24-25)
2. Jesus answers our fears. (vv. 26-27)
3. Jesus blesses our faith. (vv. 28-29)

DISCUSSION



- What are common cultural hurdles to believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? Discuss whether they are generally scientific, philosophical, or theological objections.
- Read vv 20:24-25 and discuss Thomas' doubts. What doubts have you had, either currently or previously, that made belief in Jesus difficult? Does it comfort you knowing Jesus knows your doubts?
- In v. 26, we see Jesus greeting the disciples with "Peace be with you." How have you seen Jesus bring peace to your fears? What fears do you have that need the peace of Jesus?
- Read v. 29 again and discuss what it means for Jesus to bless our faith. Why do you think Jesus blesses those who have not seen yet still believe?
- Read James 2:14-17. What does James mean when he says, "faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead?" What is the connection between grace through faith and living a life of obedience? Why do you think scripture places such a high value on both faith and obedience?

LIFE APPLICATION



This week's passage revolves around Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It teaches us how Jesus invites us to believe, even with our doubts and fears. Based on what you've learned this week, how should you respond to God's truth? How can your group support each other in times of doubt and fear?

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS



EASTER