

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

April 14, 2024

### *In the Room Where it Happened*

#### John 20:24-31

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### KEY VERSES

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue<sup>[b]</sup> to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

After riding high these two weeks post-Easter, we naturally come to the every day reality of the doubts within our faith. When Thomas doubts Jesus in verse 25, Jesus could have easily replied with exasperation and annoyance, after all of their in-person experiences with Him. Instead, He replies compassionately, inviting Thomas to feel the proof of His wounds, welcoming his doubt. **How has Jesus shown compassion to you during your own seasons of doubt? What signs of proof has He given you?**

Even John the Baptist from prison sounds out his own doubt, hearing about Jesus' compassionate acts after John had expected wrath and judgment: "is this really the Messiah we were expecting, or should we look for another?" (Luke 7:19) Compassionate to his doubt, Jesus sends the message to John in prison, "blessed are those who do not fall away because of me." (Matt. 11:6) Jesus treats doubt with great respect; Thomas and John both are trying to get to the truth of who Jesus is and He welcomes their doubt. A church that follows Jesus is not threatened by questions and has hope for gain no matter where its people are on the journey. **How have you felt freedom to express your doubts? Where are you being called to have compassion for others who doubt?**

If we want to truly find God, especially in our doubting, we must go toward the people who want to be with Jesus, for they will strengthen our faith. Even the twelve, who had journeyed alongside Him and witnessed His miracles, doubted Jesus as he commissioned them to "go therefore and make disciples of

all nations." (Matt. 28). **How can you make your doubt more available in ways that move you forward? In the groups that you're a part of, how might it look to have greater faith and doubt together?**