



AFTERMATH

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON RECAP

In this week's sermon, Matt Allman explored the theme of doubt through the story of Thomas in John chapter 20. He emphasized that doubts are a common experience among Christ followers and encouraged those struggling with their faith not to feel isolated or ashamed. He pointed out that questioning your faith does not diminish your standing in the Kingdom of God. But, it is important to seek out evidence for faith, noting that Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for his skepticism, but provided him with proof of His resurrection. We were reminded that Jesus meets us in our doubts with gentleness and understanding. Ultimately, Matt concluded that the resurrection transforms everything, providing hope and reassurance of God's presence in our struggles.

GET STARTED

- **When have you encountered or experienced something that was so outrageous, it was hard to believe it was true? Share a story.**

TAKE IT IN

- **What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

TALK IT OVER

Read John 20:24-29

- In many ways, Thomas's skepticism seems reasonable, doesn't it? Could a man really rise from the dead? We often treat doubts like a flaw, but they are a normal part of living by faith. **In what ways can we view doubt as a condemnable part of our faith?**
- After the other disciples said they saw Jesus, Thomas's reaction was, 'Unless I see....I will not believe.' **What doubts did you overcome after first hearing the gospel? Or, can you think of a time when you felt doubt in your own beliefs or experiences?**
- Jesus met Thomas with kindness and offered him the chance to touch His wounds instead of rebuking him for having doubts. **In what ways can we extend kindness to those around us who are struggling with their own doubts or faith questions?**

- Jesus doesn't move away, he steps into our pain, problems, and doubts. **What do you think it means to say that "Jesus can handle my doubts"? How can recognizing that Jesus understands and accepts our doubts, help us feel more comfortable discussing them with others?**
- From the sermon, Matt emphasized that the resurrection proved Jesus was who he claimed to be and ultimately changes everything about our lives. **Why is the resurrection of Jesus such important evidence for our faith? What is it about Jesus that helps you continue to believe in Him?**

Read Mark 9:17–27

- We often find comfort in certainty, but faith naturally involves mystery and unanswered questions. These doubts aren't flaws—they're invitations to explore our beliefs more deeply and trust God with the unknown. Like the father of the possessed boy, many of us live in the tension between belief and unbelief. **When have you felt like the father in this story? What does it mean for you to trust God for help when you don't know how he would respond?**
- In some way, many times we have all prayed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" We learned this weekend that the struggle to trust God is common. **So how do we endure in our times of doubting God? What has helped you endure through doubts?**
- We find strength and encouragement from others who share our faith, especially when we're feeling weak. **How can we create a space in our group where we can talk about doubts? How can our community help each other work through doubts and seek answers to questions?**

LIVE IT OUT

Jesus met many people who wrestled with doubt. Nathanael, one of the disciples, initially questioned Him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Nicodemus struggled to grasp the idea of being "born again" (John 3:4). Even Jesus's own family found it hard to believe who He was (Mark 3:21). **Jesus is not afraid of our doubts. Where are you struggling with the tension between belief and unbelief?** Begin to prayerfully seek God in the midst of the tension. Seek out community where you can share your doubts and be encouraged. Finally, know that you are loved by God in the midst of doubt.

Memorize: *"Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* **John 20:29 (NIV)**

Further Study:

- The Reason For God: Belief In An Age Of Skeptism by Timothy Keller
- www.roomfordoubt.com