



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Easter Destroys Doubt April 23, 2017

John 20:19-31: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though 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; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1. Long before that first Easter, what are examples from the Bible of how Satan used doubt as a powerful weapon in tempting God’s people?
2. The label “Doubting Thomas” may be a bit unfair. Read John 11:7-16. What was true of Thomas?

3. What are possible reasons that Thomas may have been so stubborn in his refusal to believe the other disciples?
4. Read the corresponding Easter accounts in Matthew 28, Mark 16 and Luke 24. Besides “Doubting Thomas” who else struggled with doubt?
5. What are examples of doubts that Christians face today?

6. “God always gives his children the evidence he knows they need.” Provide examples from the Bible:

Provide modern day examples:

7. TRUE/FALSE: God no longer performs miracles today. Explain.
8. Why is dangerous to connect our faith in Jesus to his ability to perform miracles?
9. What is the best antidote for spiritual doubt?