

## Even Me Thomas

**We must actively seek to address our doubts with *substance* (John 20:24-29).** Though many in the Christian faith see the disciple Thomas in a negative way because of his doubt, he is actually a role model for us. Despite his questions and doubt about the resurrection, Thomas remained engaged and kept seeking answers and truth. That pursuit of truth about the resurrection gave Thomas substance to his faith when Jesus appeared to him and allowed him to touch His scars. From that place of substance in his faith, Thomas loved people deeply and willingly gave his life so that others may know Jesus. For us to experience substance in our faith, we must start in the same place Thomas did: the resurrection of Jesus.

### GETTING STARTED

Why do you have faith in Jesus (e.g. it is what you were taught, you feel good about the Bible, you just believe, it changed your life, etc.)? What would you say should be the basis of our Christian faith that sets it apart from any other religion or system of belief?

### GO DEEPER

1. In John 20:24-29, Thomas was not present the first time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection. Thomas wrestled to believe in the resurrection unless he saw Jesus with his own eyes. Why do think Christians today see Thomas' response and doubt in a negative light? When Jesus saw Thomas eight days later, what was his reaction to Thomas? What does Jesus do instead of condemning him for his doubt.
2. From Hebrews 11:1, what does it mean that faith is the *substance* of things hoped for? The substance of Thomas' faith is that he got to see and touch Jesus. What should the substance of our faith be?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What is the substance of your faith? How has He spoken into or moved in your life in the midst your doubt?
2. What does the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus mean to you? Why are the eyewitness accounts of His resurrection significant?
3. If you had substance to your faith like Thomas developed, what would change about your life and the choices you make? What needs to happen for you to experience or discover that substance?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to ask the Holy Spirit what your doubts are. There is power in confession and inviting the Holy Spirit into that place to reveal Himself and to bring substance. Ask God to foster in you a faithfulness and intentionality in seeking Him despite your doubts. Invite Him to stir your hearts with passion for the resurrection of Jesus.

### BLESS

As we get closer to Easter, ask God to highlight someone that you need to invite to one of our services. Even before you ask them to attend, begin to pray that He will soften their heart to receive and respond to Him.