

The \_\_\_\_\_ to Believe

1. Consider Thomas' and the other apostles' \_\_\_\_\_ testimony in the Bible.
2. Face and process your doubts in a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. See His \_\_\_\_\_ for you and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel.

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**TAKING ACTION**

In your own story and current season, what is the state of your faith in Jesus today? Are you struggling to believe? Are you going through the motions? Is your faith stagnant or growing?

Which of the 3 WAYS to believe (see the third point in the message above) is most relevant and needed for your faith right now? How can you engage in that way this week?

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**NEXT WEEK:** *Jesus and the Purpose of John's Gospel | John 20:30-31*

JOHN  
LIFE IN JESUS

**Jesus and Thomas**

John 20:24-29  
Sunday, April 14, 2024  
Tim Theule

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*The story of Thomas both confirms and confronts our doubts and at the same time calls and challenges us to believe the Risen Jesus. John places this story right here as the climax of his Gospel for just this reason!*

The \_\_\_\_\_ to Believe

- Sometimes our \_\_\_\_\_ can make it hard for us to believe.
- Sometimes our \_\_\_\_\_ can make it hard for us to believe.
- Sometimes our \_\_\_\_\_ can make it hard for us to believe.

What it \_\_\_\_\_ to Believe

- Believing Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_ the truth about Jesus.
- Believing Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_ the truth about Jesus.

*Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at [gracecentralcoast.org/groups](http://gracecentralcoast.org/groups)*

### CONNECT *(ask this question to check-in with your group)*

Share a recent fiction book you read or listened to and enjoyed. Share why you enjoyed it.

### DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. Read John 20:24-29 again together as a group. How did you "come under" God's Word and the message this week? How did this text/message speak to you?
2. Read, again, the other mentions of Thomas in John's Gospel: John 11:11-16 and John 14:1-5. How do these texts show the pessimism but also the deep devotion of Thomas? Do you agree with that assessment? Do you see anything else in Thomas?
3. The message mentioned how Thomas' disposition, disillusionment, and isolation all might have played a part in his struggle to believe the resurrection. Have any of those three been a factor in your own struggle to believe? What other factors can make it hard for people to believe?

4. Thomas' confession of faith in verse 28 is full and robust. He doesn't say "You are Lord and God." He says "MY Lord and MY God." What's the difference and what does that mean for our lives?
5. Jesus chastises Thomas for his unbelief, but still appears to him. Why is it necessary for Jesus to appear to Thomas? (Tricky question here! The answer is embedded in John 20:24 and 2 Peter 1:16.)
6. Which of the "3 WAYS to Believe" were most instrumental for you in your own coming to faith in Jesus? Which is most relevant and needed right now for the strengthening of your faith?

1. Considering the eyewitness testimony
2. Facing and processing your doubts in a Gospel community
3. See his wounds for you and the wonder of the Gospel

### PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- Let's pray in light of John 20 the prayer of Mark 9:24: "I believe; help my unbelief!"
- Share and pray for one another's needs.