

## The Benefit of Doubt

Week 1



### Message Summary

At some point, we've all questioned what we believe. But doubt isn't a dead end. Confronting our deepest questions can actually lead us closer to Jesus.

### Key Scripture

*One of the twelve disciples, Thomas ... was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But [Thomas] replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.*

John 20:24-28 NLT

### Additional Scriptures

- Matthew 28:16-20 NIV
- John 14:5 NIV
- John 11:16 NIV
- Psalm 23:4 NKJV

### Resources

#### Bonus Content From Pastor Craig

Pastor Craig partnered with the *You've Heard It Said* podcast to create LifeGroup discussion episodes for *The Benefit of Doubt*.

### Start Talking

*Find a conversation starter for your group.*

- What's something that could make a difficult conversation feel safe?

### Start Thinking

*Ask a question to get your group thinking.*

- Talk about the difference between a journey and a destination. What are some reasons it's helpful to think about your faith as a journey?
- Read **John 20:24-28**. What do you notice about Jesus' response to Thomas' curiosity? What does this tell you about Jesus' response to your doubts?

### Start Sharing

*Choose a question to create openness.*

- Share about a time when you doubted your faith or had questions for God. How did that experience impact your relationship with God?
- Are you doubting something in your life or your faith? How can your LifeGroup or the people around you help you process your questions?

### Start Praying

*Father, You are bigger than our doubts and questions. We believe that You draw near to us and can grow our faith through our doubts. Please show us how we can continue to process our doubts and questions and show us more of You along the way. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Start Doing

- If you're struggling with something in your faith, talk about it with someone you trust.
- Start the Bible Plan *The Benefit of Doubt* using Plans With Friends: [www.go2.lc/doubtplan](http://www.go2.lc/doubtplan)
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.