

LIFE APP

PROOF

PROOF OF LIFE

John 20:24-29 NIV: Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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.” 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!” 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.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we’re continuing this amazing series from the book of John about the miraculous signs that give undeniable “Proof” that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God! Even though Jesus had told them what was going to happen and they had personally witnessed so many of His miracles, and yet, following the Crucifixion and during the silent hours of the following day, they were filled with doubts, discouragement, depression, and were trying to process what had happened. Each one processed these events differently, but this week we’re going to focus on Thomas and see how Jesus specifically met his needs - just as He will for us!

Read John 20:1-23:

1) To put our focus text in context, look at this passage and describe the various events that took place on the day of Resurrection.

2A) What do we learn from John 20:24 that is very important?

2B) According to John 20:25, how did Thomas respond to what the other disciples told him?

2C) How can we know that Thomas had personally witnessed the crucifixion?

3) PERSONAL: Which of His followers reaction do you think you would have been most likely to have had while dealing with such a Difficult Experience?

Read John 20:26-29 again:

4A) Describe the details of this Divine Encounter.

When?

Where?

Who was involved?

What happened?

4B) PERSONAL: What do you think is the most interesting part of this encounter that you may have never thought about before?

4C) PERSONAL: What does it mean to you to know that Jesus came back specifically for Thomas?

Read Luke 24:36-49:

5A) From this passage, what Definitive Evidence did Jesus give His Disciples that He was literally alive again?

5B) What do we learn about the importance of the Resurrection from 1 Corinthians 15:20-23?

6) PERSONAL: Since Jesus is said to be the Firstfruit of the dead, how are you encouraged by the facts we have about His resurrected body - that will be the same for us in the future?

ACT: The disciples and other followers of Jesus had been through an incredibly Difficult Experience, watching their beloved Savior suffer and die the most horrible of deaths - crucifixion. They were filled with fear and the silence of the next day was deafening, but they had no idea that Resurrection was coming - even though Jesus had warned them about every detail. We can only imagine all their thoughts and reactions, but Jesus came to them and they all saw and believed! Then they spent the rest of their lives telling everyone all the time about their Risen, Loving, All Powerful, Lord and Savior so that today we can also believe - because they had a Divine Encounter, and were given Definitive Evidence that He is Alive forevermore! Praise the Lord! He is Risen Indeed!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that remind us to not doubt - but to Believe.

Monday:

Matthew 14:29-31 NLT

"Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

Tuesday:

Matthew 21:21 NLT

Then Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen."

Wednesday:

Psalms 94:19 NLT

When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.

Thursday:

James 1:6 NIV

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Friday:

Romans 14:22-23 NIV

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Saturday:

Mark 11:22-23 NLT

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart."

Sunday:

Jude 1:20-22 NLT

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt;

