

“Back From Doubt” Group Guide

Series: Back to Life

Passage: John 20:24-31

Speaker(s): Pastor Ryan Paulson

Date: April 14, 2024

ICEBREAKER:

What would you like to be remembered for?

Back From Doubt
John 20:24-31

Sincere doubt can be the pathway to a **deeper faith**.

- **Name** doubt **honestly**.
- **Remain** connected **relationally**.
- **Respond** to revelation **immediately**.

Faith isn't the **absence of doubt**, it's the **presence of trust**.

Books for further study:

- *Searching for Enough* by Tyler Staton
- *After Doubt* by A.J. Swoboda
- *Making Sense of God* by Timothy Keller



Learning His Way

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the Scriptures that try to help us Discover the unique Way of Jesus found in the text.)

1. Read John 20:24-31.

2. Look up the passages in John that help us get to know Thomas: John 11:16 and 14:3-5.
What kind of man was he?

3. John stated clearly the intent of his writing (v. 31). What has helped you to believe (or grow in belief) in this passage?



Forming His Heart

(This is the part of the study where we work on our hearts. "How does my character need to grow and change because of this passage?")

4. Do you ever doubt God?

5. Are you a logically-minded person or more apt to be led by the heart? Are both necessary? Share why or why not.

6. Take a moment and quietly examine your heart. Where has God disappointed you? How has this caused you to doubt?

7. "Jesus meets us where we are, not where we think we should be." ~ Ryan Paulson. Respond to that statement and the first question recorded in Scripture, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9).



Joining His Mission

(This is the part of the study that we ask, "What would God want us to do because of this passage?")

8. Listen to [*Open the Eyes of My Heart*](#) by Michael W. Smith

9. How have you responded to someone raising questions about faith in Jesus or other biblical facts? Have you invited the questions or received them as a threat? Share what it would look like to be a safe space for someone with questions.

10. Pray as a group that this week, you will encounter someone lacking in faith and struggling with doubt. Decide right now to meet them with a posture of love as Jesus modeled.

11. Consider memorizing Ephesians 1:16-18 this week.