

LESSON 13
DOUBT RESOLVED . . . I BELIEVE!
JOHN 20:1—21:25



1 Think back to a time when you said something you knew to be true but no one believed you. How did you respond to their doubts?



Read John 20:1—21:25, the profiles of Mary Magdalene and Thomas, and the following notes:

☐ 20:1ff ☐ 20:18 ☐ 20:21 ☐ 20:24–29 ☐ 20:25–28 ☐ 21:15–17 ☐ 21:25

2 How did Mary Magdalene react when she found the stone rolled away?

3 How did the disciples first respond when they found the tomb empty?

4 How did Thomas respond to the report that Jesus was alive? What did it take for him to believe?

5 What evidence for the Resurrection does John present?

6 What doubts did you once have about Jesus?



7 What doubts do you still have about Jesus?

8 For what reason did John write his Gospel (20:31)?

We have all faced doubts about God, the Bible, another person's testimony, and even ourselves. The critical question is "What do we do about our doubts?" We can casually ignore God's claims, continually question them, stubbornly resist them, flatly deny them—or look for answers. God tells us to believe and to have faith. But he does not ask us to believe without careful consideration of clear evidence. John has provided us with ample evidence for a reasonable faith in Jesus Christ. What kind of evidence would you accept? Believe him and find life. "Blessed are those who haven't seen me and believe anyway" (John 20:29).

9 What evidence is most convincing to you that Jesus is God's Son and that you need to believe in him?



10 What evidence that Jesus is alive do you see in other people's lives?

11 What kinds of situations or circumstances tend to make your faith falter?

12 What lingering doubts do you have that cause you concern?

13 What would it take for you to resolve those doubts and believe?



14 Rather than deny your doubts, embrace them, try to understand them, and search out the evidence to answer them. With which doubt can you begin? What kind of evidence of God's faithfulness do you need?

- A** What evidence for Jesus' deity does John appeal to in these verses?
- B** How is your life different since you first believed? How can you spread the news about the risen Christ?
- C** What doubts do your unbelieving friends have? What could you do to help them work through their doubts?
- D** How does the Bible bring life (20:31)? How can you improve your Bible study?
- E** What have you learned about Jesus' love from his relationship with Peter? What would your response be if Jesus asked you the questions he asked Peter?
- F** How did Peter respond to Jesus' questions? What are the "these" that Jesus asked Peter about in 21:15?
- G** How would you respond to Jesus' question "Do you love me?"
- H** Why do we tend to compare our life with others'? How does Jesus' answer to Peter in 21:22 relate to that tendency?
- I** If the Jews worshiped on Saturday, the Sabbath, what reason would the believers in Christ have for worshiping on Sunday, the first day of the week?

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