

AfterWords
Blend In or Stand Out
John 20:24-29
May 1, 2022

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to equip you to do the next right thing. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out the questions that will stir up conversation and action around your group.

KEY POINT

Thomas disappeared after the crucifixion. No one knows where he disappeared to, but most think he was in hiding – away from the other disciples. It was easier to blend in with the crowd than to stand out as one of Jesus' followers. The same is true today, do you blend in or stand out?

LAUNCH IT

- Have you ever run away from a problem? What was it? Why did you run away from it? How did you finally come back and address it?
- When you became a Jesus follower, what convinced you to make that decision?

EXPLORE IT

- Read **John 20:24-29**
 - Read the passage out loud. Pick a couple of different translations.
 - We are reading the Bible to learn to hear the voice of God.
- What jumped out at you about the passage? Words, names, people, location, verbs?
 - How does the name "Doubting Thomas" influence how you read this section of the Bible?
 - How does hearing other accounts of Thomas change how you read this section?
- Read **John 20:24-29** in one or two different translations. Have someone re-tell this story in their own words.
 - What do these verses say about God?
 - What do these verses say about people?
 - What do these verses say about obedience?

APPLY IT

- Re-read **John 20:24-29** one more time.
- Have someone else re-tell this passage in their own words.
- In light of what we now know about this passage, what is God calling you to **do** this week?
 - Make it specific and be ready to share what you did next time.
- Who is the Holy Spirit prompting me to share these verses with?
 - Make it specific and be ready to share what you did next time.

PRACTICE IT

- Now what?
 - When you are tempted to doubt the sovereignty of God, what is one thing you can take away from this section of the Bible that will encourage you?
 - When you talk to people in your circle of influence about their doubts, how can you use Thomas as a way to help them come to a greater trust in Jesus?