



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

April 8, 2018

Open

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. . . —1 Peter 1:3

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. Rebirth. A Living Hope. Jesus lives forever, and so will we.

For the next few weeks, we are going to follow the message of the resurrection further still. *Because He Lives* continues the celebration of Easter and what it means to encounter the eternal Son of God, alive forevermore!

Main Point

Everything Jesus promised while on earth is proved through the resurrection. It answers those who doubt God and are looking for evidence for their faith.

Read

John 20:19-31; use also John 4:46-50; 11:14-16; 14:1-6;
Matthew 16:21; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Deuteronomy 19:15;
2 Corinthians 13:1

Discuss

- Peter, John and Judas are the most known disciples. James was the third of Jesus' closest three (along with Peter and John). Thomas may be the next most famous, but for questionable reasons—he doubted. Using the little bit we do know about him, build (discuss as a group) a profile of Thomas.
- John doesn't say why Thomas was absent the first time Jesus appeared to them. Taking this (20:19-31) as one story, what picture is John painting?
- What are some reasons Thomas *should* have believed the other disciples?
- Considering Jesus' rebuke of "signs and wonders" in John 4:46, why would he entertain Thomas' requirements for belief? Is the resurrection a different sign? Is Thomas a different situation?
- Belief plays such a big part. A personal encounter, seeing, proof—these are all a part of Thomas' testimony. And he ends up with one of the greatest confessions given. What does this say about a doubter, his faith and the resurrection?