

THE SIX WEEK PURSUIT + HERO'S LEGACY +

ADULT SMALL-GROUP STUDY

To the Teacher,

This study is designed to accompany you as you teach the members of our church. This booklet and the accompanying video are only supplements. Feel free to take ownership of the materials and allow the Spirit to lead you as we talk about the heroes of the Bible together.

Included in this packet are pages intended to be handouts to your group/family with fill-in the blank lines that correspond to the video supplements on our Riverside Lighthouse website, and our Riverside Lighthouse Youtube page.

I realize it is much to ask, and that is why your partnership is both deeply appreciated and treasured. May God bless you immensely as we grow in our walk together!

Sincerely,
Your Pastors

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WEEK 1 – “THOMAS: WONDER IN THE DOUBT”

Pre-Lesson Study:

To the Teacher:

This lesson will be best accomplished by the Teacher first studying **John 20:24-29**, and **Romans 4:16-25**. If you would like to add any other verses that would enhance the study or speak to your heart, then please feel free to include them. The video portion of the lesson will cover John 20, but you will be responsible for the additional thoughts of Romans 4. As you study, keep the following in mind:

Themes to Keep in Mind:

- As you study the Scriptures, remember our true hero, founder, and perfecter of our faith is Jesus Himself. All of those we read about, who are considered heroes of the faith, are in truth simply reflections of the greatest one of all.
- Keep an eye out for how we can practically apply our faith and for what we can learn from Thomas' story.

Questions to Keep in Mind:

- What differences/similarities are there between Thomas' faith and Abraham's faith? How did both come to perfect their faith?
- How does Abraham's faith correlate with him being counted as righteous?

Once you have read and studied the 2 Scriptures noted above, you are ready to preview the Adult Group lesson for preparation.

Lesson Opener: Welcome to the 6-Week Pursuit, Week 1, and today's topic: “Wonder in the Doubt”. We will focus on Thomas today and what we can learn from this founding father of the church.

Ice Breaker Question: What type of food do you just not trust?

- For an example of a food I don't trust, I, Ty Weaver, want nothing to do with the Arby's Flamethrower burger. I ate one once and well, let's just say I lost a good pair of pants before I made it back home.

Video – Vern Weaver – “Wonder in the Doubt”: pass out the copies of the handout for this lesson and encourage learners to fill in the blanks in the handout as they watch the video.

Learner Handouts – Teacher's Guide: the corresponding blanks are highlighted

1. Thomas is not in John's Gospel because he doubted, he is written of because **faith triumphed over Thomas' doubt**.
2. We don't come to Jesus, Jesus **always approaches us first**.
3. When Thomas saw Jesus, he replied: “**My Lord and my God.**”
4. We change when Jesus **enters the room**.
5. Our faith becomes **stronger** when we **worship** Jesus.

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Video Follow-Up Questions: encourage every member of your group to pitch in an answer as you walk through these questions together.

Question #1: Like Thomas, we all have doubts. What are you most doubtful of?

Question #2: Do you believe Thomas had little faith? Why or why not?

Question #3: What restored Thomas' faith?

Going Deeper: now read **Romans 4:16-25** together. Use your previous study of the passage to inform this portion of the conversation.

Final Question: Do you believe your faith is weak? What could you do to strengthen your faith in God this next week?

Prayer Emphasis: conclude the lesson with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray for God to help you in your unbelief.
- Pray for God to fill you with a sense of wonder of who Jesus is and what He has done.
- Pray for Jesus to enter your room and step into your pain. He will meet you there.

LESSON HANDOUTS:

WEEK 1 STUDY “THOMAS: WONDER IN THE DOUBT”

Fill in the blanks as you watch the supplemental video to today’s lesson. If you miss any answers, your group’s teacher can provide them.

1. Thomas is not in John’s Gospel because he doubted, he is written of because _____.
2. We don’t come to Jesus, Jesus _____.
3. When Thomas saw Jesus, he replied: “_____ and _____.”
4. We change when Jesus _____.
5. Our faith becomes _____ when we _____ Jesus.

Video Follow-Up Questions

Question #1: Like Thomas, we all have doubts. What are you most doubtful of?

Question #2: Do you believe Thomas had little faith? Why or why not?

Question #3: What restored Thomas’ faith?

Final Question: Do you believe your faith is weak? What could you do to strengthen your faith in God this next week?
