

WEEK 4: Labelled (Thomas)

INTRODUCTION

Thomas was one of Jesus twelve closest people. They spent three years together that abruptly concluded with the crucifixion of Jesus. Thomas didn't know what to think of the "so called" resurrection of Jesus because he was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them. What happened next labelled Thomas forever, even though it certainly was not the end of his story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been labeled? Perhaps you have a nickname connected to it, or the way you introduce yourself is often attached to it. Have you ever felt as though it's not the most accurate description of who you really are?
2. Read John 11:1-16. After the death of Jesus' friend Lazarus, Jesus wanted to go visit the family. Thomas was certain Jesus would face real difficulty there, and made a bold statement in verse 16. What does Thomas' statement tell you about his friendship and commitment to Jesus?
3. Read John 14:1-6. After Jesus tells the disciples He is planning to leave them, and they know the way to where He is going; Thomas speaks for everyone when he comments back to Jesus in verse 5. What admirable character do you see in Thomas?
4. Read John 20:19-20. Thomas missed the first post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. What happened next would label Thomas forever. What do we discover about faith in Jesus in verses (24-29)? What do you learn about yourself in the last sentence of verse 29?
5. Read John 20:30-31. What impact do the eyewitness accounts and records of these people have on your faith today?

MOVING FORWARD

A prayer: "Dear God, may I not be held back in my life by a past label, but help me to move forward and make a difference in my world like Thomas did in his."