



## Believing Without Seeing

*John 20:24-29, <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

*John 11:16, Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."*

*John 14:5, Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

*John 20:31, But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

*Acts 2:38-39, <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

*Romans 10:17, Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

*John 17:20, My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*

1. Think back to the time when you committed your life to Christ. What brought to you that decision? How did you encounter God when you made that decision?

2. Read John 11:16, John 14:5, and John 20:24-29. What do we understand about Thomas from each of the three stories? How does Jesus react each time? What do we learn from Jesus' responses?
  
3. John 20:31, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 10:17, and John 17:20. Was Thomas' faith deficient in any way? Whom is Jesus calling *blessed* in the last beatitude (20:29)? If not sight, what other privileges has God provided to help us believe?
  
4. What are some ways you can express your faith? What are some ways that God is challenging you to bless others?