



# Going Deeper Together

## ‘From Scepticism to Faith’

John 20:19-31

[based on sermon preached 24.4.22 – may be available on the [church app](#) or at <https://lwac.org.au/sermons>]

### KEY IDEAS

1. Thomas is famous for his ‘doubting’ or scepticism. Most likely Thomas was deeply hurt by the loss of Jesus and this hurt almost became an anger, which resulted in him withdrawing and rejecting the eye witness testimony that Jesus was alive.
2. From Thomas’ experience we learn that moving from scepticism to faith involves, 1. listening to/reading the eye witness accounts of Jesus, 2. realizing that God is seeking us long before we seek him, and 3. the wounds of Jesus can truly heal us.
3. Jesus was gentle and patient with Thomas, even in the face of his hurt and hostility, Jesus loved him.

### CONNECT

- Describe a time when you or someone you know was sceptical about Jesus – what was it about Jesus that was hard to believe?

### STUDY

**Read** John 20:19-31

Have different members of your group read a few verses at a time.

1. To listen to the eye witnesses, for us, means reading the Gospels reflectively, thoughtfully and prayerfully: listening for God’s voice to our hearts.
  - How often do you read the Gospels?
  - Would you like to share a time when God spoke to your heart while reading scripture?
2. Recognising that God is always seeking us means that He is nearer to us in our day to day lives than we are often aware of.

- How does this truth help us understand this teaching from 1 Thess 5:16-19

“<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.

3. The wounds of Jesus can truly heal us means that Jesus’ wounds are redemptive. They brought pain, condemnation and death **to Jesus**, but they bring healing, forgiveness and life **to us**. Thomas realised this and fell down on his knees and said, “My Lord and My God”.

- Discuss this statement: “Sometimes people can see Jesus as their saviour but they don’t see him as their Lord.”

Jesus loved Thomas despite his hostility. He was patient with him and never gave up on him.

- Who in your life is a bit like Thomas?
- How can you be more like Jesus with them?

## APPLY

- Which aspect of this study has struck you the most and why? What are you going to do as a result ?

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

- According to need.