

## STUDY GUIDE – From Doubt to Declaration

John 20:24–29 (CSB)

**Big Idea:** Jesus meets our doubt with truth and calls us to a faith that surrenders, declares, and trusts.

### 1. Partake the Word (Receive / Feed)

Read John 20:24–29 slowly and intentionally.

Pay close attention to what is unfolding:

- Thomas demands physical proof
- Jesus meets him personally
- Truth leads to declaration

Let the moment sit with you—feel the tension, the doubt, and the breakthrough.

### Reflective Questions:

- Where do you see yourself in this passage—Thomas, the disciples, or somewhere in between?

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- What emotions rise as you read this—confidence, confusion, resistance, comfort?

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- Have you ever felt like you “missed the moment” like Thomas did? How did it affect your faith?

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## 2. Probe the Word (Study / Examine)

### I. The Doubt – It Distorts (v. 24–25)

Doubt doesn't erase truth—it edits it.

#### A. The Eye – It Demands

*βλέπω (blepō)* — to see, perceive

Doubt demands new evidence while ignoring existing truth.

#### B. The Finger – It Dissects

*ψηλαφάω (psēlapháō)* — to touch, examine closely

Doubt moves from receiving truth to analyzing it endlessly.

#### C. The Hand – It Determines

*βάλλω (ballō)* — to cast, place

Doubt sets itself as the authority over what is true.

**Key Truth:** Doubt becomes dangerous when it replaces trust with control.

#### Reflective Questions:

- Where in your life are you asking God for more proof instead of trusting what He has already shown?

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- Do you tend to overanalyze spiritual truth instead of receiving it? What does that look like?

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- In what ways might you be trying to “set the terms” for your faith?

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## II. The Savior – He Reveals (v. 26–27)

Jesus meets doubt with truth, not rejection.

### A. He Welcomes

λέγω (*legō*) — to speak intentionally

Jesus invites honest questions.

### B. He Warrants

ἴδε (*ide*) — behold, see clearly

Jesus presents Himself as the evidence.

### C. He Widens

πιστός (*pistos*) — faithful, believing

Jesus calls for faith beyond sight.

**Key Truth:** Jesus doesn't shame doubters—He shepherds them.

### Reflective Questions:

- How does it change your view of Jesus knowing He welcomes your questions?

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- Are you bringing your doubts to Jesus—or away from Him? Why?

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- What would it look like for you to trust Him even when you cannot see clearly?

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### III. The Declaration – It Defines (v. 28–29)

When Jesus is revealed, truth must be declared.

#### A. Personal Surrender – “My Lord”

*κύριος (kyrios)* — master, ruler

Faith becomes personal.

#### B. Powerful Statement – “My God”

*θεός (theos)* — God, divine authority

Jesus is not just teacher—He is God.

#### C. Promised Blessing – “Blessed...”

*μακάριος (makarios)* — deeply satisfied, favored

Faith without sight carries a unique blessing.

**Key Truth:** Real faith doesn’t stay silent—it declares who Jesus is.

#### Reflective Questions:

- Is Jesus truly “Lord” in your daily decisions—or just in your words?

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- What keeps you from fully declaring Jesus as God in every area of your life?

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- Do you believe there is blessing in trusting Him without seeing? Why or why not?

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### 3. Practice the Word (Live It Out)

- Where has doubt caused you to ignore what God has already done?

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- What truth do you need to return to this week?

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- How can you move from questioning to declaring?

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**Action Step:** Write out your own declaration this week:

**“Jesus, You are my Lord and my God in \_\_\_\_\_.”**

Reflective Questions:

- What specific situation right now is testing your faith the most?

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- What would it look like to respond with faith instead of hesitation in that area?

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- Who can you share your declaration with this week as a step of boldness?

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#### 4. Pray & Praise (Depend / Declare)

**Prayer:** Lord, You see my doubts. You know my questions. But today, I choose to trust what You've already revealed. You are my Lord. You are my God. Strengthen my faith.

**Praise:** Thank Him that He doesn't abandon you in doubt—He meets you, reveals Himself, and calls you forward.

#### Reflective Questions:

- What doubt do you need to surrender to God right now in prayer?

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- How has God proven Himself faithful to you in the past?

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- What can you praise Him for today—even if your situation hasn't changed yet?

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