

## Bible Study Discussion

### Hope in Second Chances...Thomas (John 20:19-31)

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (called 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 it."

<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."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

#### 1. FEAR:

- a. What opportunities would the disciples have missed if they continued to live in fear? What difference would/does living with peace vs. fear make?
- b. Can you think of a time that fear kept you from doing something and you later regretted not doing it? What happened when you overcame fear and did it anyway?

#### 2. FORGIVENESS:

- a. How can unresolved guilt prevent forward progress as a Christian?
- b. At the essence of Jesus' mission for his disciples was to forgive sins. How is forgiveness of sins at the center of second chances?

#### 3. FAITH:

- a. How does doubt prevent us from experiencing all that God desires us to enjoy as a follower of him?
- b. How is faith at the heart of the second chances God gives to us?