



EST. 1948

**MOORLANDS
COLLEGE**

FOLLOW

IS GOD DEAD?

SESSION 1

Teaching

John 20 (Doubting Thomas)

Is Jesus who he said he was?

If he really is alive, it changes everything!

Metaphor

A dead phone... you can't rely on it in an emergency. The handset is useless without the battery that gives it power. Maybe that's what it feels like with faith, church or the bible. A handset without a battery. A nice idea, but powerless!

God invites the questions. He can handle people trying to tear Christianity apart. Some religions build protective hedges around their beliefs. You are not allowed to question them. Thomas shows that you are not rejected for expressing your doubts. Can you imagine Jesus be like, “After all I’ve done for the entire human race, and now you want me to prove myself to you? And I don’t remember you standing there defending me in front of Pilate. Well, I’ve got something to tell you, Thomas.”

No. Rather than give him the cold shoulder for lack of belief, or rejecting him with harsh words, Jesus welcomed him. It’s not awkward or defensive. “Feel my nail-scarred hands. Put your hand in my side where the spear pierced me.” Explore the evidence first hand. Don’t sit on your questions. Find your answers. Somehow, over the centuries, Thomas picked up a label. Doubting Thomas is so unfair. It’s like a character assassination. Every single disciple would have had the same question had they not seen Jesus the first time round. Thomas had the guts to put his doubts into words.

QUESTIONS



1. If this is true, should it deserve my time?
2. Can I push through the uncomfortable feelings I might have?
3. Can I articulate the questions that I have in front of others?
4. Maybe you wouldn’t say that you follow Jesus. What do you follow?
5. How much trust do you have that what /who you follow won’t let you down?



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PRESENTED BY BECKY ROWE & ANTHONY THORPE,
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