

Current Series
**“Through the Eyes
 Of Jesus”**

February 28 to April 18

**7. “Thomas: as Jesus Sees
 the Anatomy of Doubt”**

Message Outline

Video Clip - “Doubt” by John Patrick Shanley

What do you do when you’re not sure?

1. Thomas was unsure about a future without Jesus

- a) Thomas was never shy about his questions (see John 14:1-6)
- b) Thomas was absent when Jesus appeared and needed more than just their word on it (see John 20:19-25)

Video Clip - “Doubt” by John Patrick Shanley

“Doubt can be a bond as powerful and sustaining as certainty. When you are lost, you’re not alone.”

3. How does the world view doubt and faith?

- a) Doubt and faith are mutually exclusive (see James 1:5-7)
- b) If we doubt, our faith will be weak (see Mark 11:22-25)
- c) If we have NO doubts, our faith will always be rewarded

Video Clip - “Doubt” by John Patrick Shanley

Sometimes a person who is a picture of strength, conviction and resolution, who is willing to go against all doubts and the opposition even of people of great faith, comes to a point where she recognizes and confesses that she has doubts.

What does this mean for people who struggle with real and inescapable doubt while at the same time having strong and resolute faith?

4. How does Jesus see Thomas’s doubt? (see John 20:26-31)

- a) He told Thomas to do the very things he required in order to resolve his doubts - *“put your finger in the nail holes and your hand in my side”*
- b) There was no chastisement for his doubts
- c) Jesus encouraged Thomas to no longer doubt now that he had been given the evidence that he needed
- d) Jesus commended the faith of others who would not require such comprehensive evidence

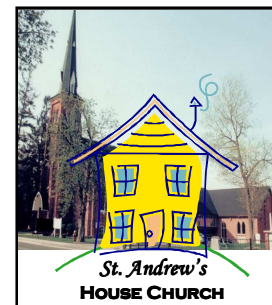
5. To see doubt as Jesus sees it

- a) Doubt sometimes demands answers and evidences
- b) Doubt is something we overcome when we act in faith
- c) Faith, tempered by doubt, is still faith

TAKE HOMES (points to remember)

- i) Doubt is sometimes _____ and _____.
- ii) Doubt is sometimes _____ and _____.
- iii) Doubt is overcome in _____.

FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION



We encourage you to discuss these issues during the coming week as a

- Study Guide for House Church
- Time of reflection individually or with members of your family

Warm-Up

When you find yourself in doubt, how does that impact your behaviour and actions? How does that affect your faith and feelings about God?

- 1. Sometimes our doubts are reasonable and justifiable because our confidence is misplaced. Discuss the dilemma of the nun in the movie **“Doubt”**.
- 2. Discuss the tension that is often experienced between belief and doubt when we pray?
- 3. What can we do to effectively resolve some of our doubts?
- 4. What does God do to help us resolve some of our doubts?