

## **Close Encounters – In the House Life Group Questions 21/04/2024**

### **Introduction:**

Have you ever received good news that was hard to believe? What was it?

### **Who was Thomas?**

Thomas (Aramaic) and Didymus (Greek) both mean twin. We don't know who his twin was. Tradition says he went to India and formed the St Thomas Christians in Kerala in South India in AD 52 and was martyred in AD 72. The Mar Thoma church exists in India today and traces its origins back to Thomas.

### **Read John 20:24-31**

1. How do you think Thomas felt? How would you have felt? How do you think the other disciples felt? v24-25
2. Thomas is known as doubting Thomas. What other qualities did he show? (read Luke 11:16 and John 14:5).
3. Which, if any, do you identify with?
4. What is striking about Jesus' presence/appearing in v26?
5. How does Jesus help Thomas? v27.
6. What is the significance of Thomas exclaiming, "My Lord and My God"? v28

7. Why did John write this gospel? v29-31
8. What do you find the most convincing evidence for the resurrection?
9. What is the significance of the resurrection (read 1 Cor 15:12-18)?
10. How does this story encourage us into active mission? What might that look like for you?

### **Conclusion:**

What's the one thing God wants you to take into the coming week or month from this study? Pray for one another if you are meeting in a group.

Share your thoughts with someone if you are not meeting in a group.

### **Resources:**

#### **Books**

- Basic Christianity, ch 4; John Stott; 1958
- Who Moved the Stone? Frank Morison; 1930
- The Case for Easter; Lee Stobel; 2004
- Is Easter Unbelievable? Rebecca McLoughlin 2023

#### **Video**

- How Can Anyone Believe in a Dead Man Rising?  
Simon Edwards; [www.theocca.org](http://www.theocca.org)