

HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

STUDY GUIDE

John 20:11-18, 24-29

Observation questions

1. What reasons did Mary give for her weeping at the tomb, and who did she initially mistake Jesus for?
2. What specific proof did Thomas demand before he would believe Jesus had risen?
3. How did Jesus respond to Thomas's doubt when He appeared to the disciples eight days later?

Interpretation questions

1. Why might profound grief, like Mary's, prevent someone from recognizing Jesus' presence even when He is near?
2. How can prolonged familiarity with Jesus, as experienced by His own brothers, lead to a casualness that dulls spiritual sight and wonder?
3. In what ways do unmet expectations, like Thomas's, create a barrier to faith and cause people to demand signs rather than trust?
4. Why does Jesus pronounce a special blessing on those who believe without seeing, and what does that suggest about the nature of true faith?

SO CLOSE THAT YOU MISS IT

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Application questions

1. Grief can narrow vision and make it hard to perceive God's nearness. What is a current situation where sorrow might be distorting your ability to see Jesus at work? What practical step could you take this week to "filter" that grief with gratitude or community?
2. Familiarity with Bible stories or church routines can sometimes make God's power feel predictable. Where has your faith become routine? What is one way you could intentionally seek fresh revelation or astonishment in your relationship with Jesus?
3. Unmet expectations can harden into disappointment and cynicism. Where have you been measuring God against your own metrics? How might reframing your desires with humility open you to His quieter, often wider, ways of working?
4. Jesus meets Thomas in his doubt but calls him to move from demanding proof to placing trust. What is an area of your life where you are waiting to "see" before you believe? What would it look like to choose belief in the middle of that uncertainty?
5. The resurrection is not just a historical event but a present reality meant to be experienced daily. What would it look like this week to live with the awareness that Jesus is alive and active in your middle—your grief, your routine, your disappointments?
6. James, Peter, and John all went from moments of failure and unbelief to becoming pillars of the church. What does their transformation reveal about God's grace, and how does it encourage you in your own journey of faith?