

Meeting 10.1



Module 10 outcome: The disciple makes a disciple.

In this meeting, both discipler and disciple will go on a scriptural journey through some crucial points in the life of one of the more overlooked disciple makers in the Bible: the apostle Thomas. So grab your Bibles and dig in!

READ John 11:1–16. *Notice Thomas' zeal—he's willing to go to Judea and risk being killed for Jesus' sake!*

READ John 14:1–6. *Here Thomas is portrayed as confused and unable to grasp Jesus' point.*

READ John 20:20–25. *This takes place immediately after Jesus' resurrection. At this point, the zeal has totally faded, and now we see why Thomas has received the nickname that he's most known by: "Doubting Thomas."*

READ John 20:26–29. *Thomas finally sees the resurrected Christ, puts his hands in his side, and believes.*

Once he finally believes, Thomas cries out, "My Lord and my God!" This cry was more than just an excited acclamation of faith. An ancient historian recorded the fact that the emperor Domitian—who was no friend to Christians—demanded to be referred to as "Our Lord and Our God." Additionally, we've found the remains of what NT Wright calls a "positively enormous statue of Domitian" in the ancient city of Ephesus, which is where many believe the book of John was written. Thomas took the propaganda of the mighty emperor, in the shadow of his statue, and applied it not to Domitian, but to Jesus Christ.

So what does all this mean?



John is telling us—through Doubting Thomas—that Jesus is above everything, even the mighty emperor Domitian. He’s using Domitian’s own slogan to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ. He’s also showing us that in that moment, something fundamentally changed in Thomas.

His commitment to Jesus was once as unpredictable as the waves on the ocean. Now, he’s seen the risen Lord—and has placed him above all else.

5. We don’t hear from Thomas again in the Bible (aside from a couple brief mentions of his name). However, we can be sure something big changed for him in that moment. Why? Because apparently Thomas traveled east and planted a church in India which still exists today. The Syrian Christians of India trace their history back to this apostle, who left all he knew to travel to a distant land and *make disciples*. 2000 years of a disciple making legacy: not bad for a doubter, is it?

To learn more about the Syrian Christians of India, view the Saint Thomas Christians link located on the Module 10 resource page.

DISCUSS the questions below:

1. Do you doubt your ability to disciple someone? What does Thomas’ story have to say about that?
2. Have you had a “my Lord and my God” sort of moment, where you finally surrender everything to God?
3. If you have no idea who you might disciple, what specific kinds of prayers do you need to start praying regularly?

ASSIGNMENT: Complete the Looking Back practice, located on the Module 10 resource page. Also, begin to pray about who you will invite into a discipling relationship, if you have not already made a disciple during your own journey. (You’ll invite someone onto the Pathway before Meeting 10.4.)

