

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Mark 3:13-19**

As we continued the journey this week, we met Thomas – also known as “Doubting Thomas.” But as we see in today’s lesson, Jesus had hand-picked Thomas to be a part of his inner circle. This is the group that would share the Good News with others first and would give up their own lives for the Good News. Can you imagine how Thomas must have felt when Jesus called Thomas to himself? He, Thomas, was chosen by Jesus! Now consider your relationship with Jesus. You are chosen, too. You are chosen to receive the gift of grace. You are chosen to be one who can believe without seeing. You have been chosen to share with others the Good News that Jesus is risen from the dead and is alive and well today. You have been chosen to be a witness to the resurrection power of Jesus in your life. You are not called to be the judge or the lawyer – just chosen to bear witness to what you know. Today, will you doubt that you have been chosen or will you embrace that you are among God’s chosen and share this good news with others?

### **Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Luke 9:1-6**

So many times we have read or heard this passage and never took time to give any thought to the fact that this group of people were ordinary people like you and me. In fact, one of those that were sent was Thomas. He was partnered off with one of the others and sent off – away from Jesus’ watchful eye – to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God being at hand and healing people. They cast out demons and lived with folks in the village that they visited. Jesus tells them to take nothing, but to rely solely on God’s providence. Now does this sound like one who doubts? Take time today to imagine what it must have been like to be Thomas and to be sent by Jesus to strange towns where no one knew him. What concerns do you think he had? What kind of results do you think he experienced? Were there blessings? Would God have been honored if Thomas and the others said no, I’m not called to do that? You have been chosen just like Thomas. What excuses have you been giving God about why you can’t do this? Pray for forgiveness today and courage to be bold for the Kingdom’s sake. Then go invite someone to church.

### **Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – John 11:1-16**

Today we continue to learn about Thomas, the twin. As we learned Sunday, most people put Thomas in a negative light. But consider today’s passage. How does Thomas’ response to Jesus and the others strike you? Does this sound like one with doubt or fear or control issues? Why do you think he is so bold here, but not after the crucifixion? What rocks your world and your faith? What stops you from being a bold witness like Thomas, ready to die for Jesus? Take some time today and write a note to Jesus, explaining what makes you timid and what makes you bold for him. Then ask for the timidity to be removed and the boldness to be enlarged! Don’t forget to ask for the opportunity to be bold in your sphere of influence. Then be ready to act – as Thomas responded – with boldness and courage!

### **Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Luke 24:35-43**

In Luke’s retelling of the post-resurrection appearance, Thomas is not the only one with doubts. Even though those who had been on the road to Emmaus had shared their experience concerning Jesus, it appears that none of the disciples bought in to this. In fact, Luke clearly points out that they were all afraid and filled with doubt. They had troubled hearts. How stubborn are they and how much are they like us? The women told them – they did not believe. The men returning from Emmaus had told them and they didn’t believe. Jesus appears and they are still filled with doubt and troubled hearts! Consider why it was important for Jesus to eat with the disciples. How can inviting a nonbeliever to a meal help with sharing the Good News? Consider today where you are in this story. What did you need to believe? Now consider someone you know who doesn’t believe. What do they need to help them believe? How can you meet them in their doubt and help their unbelief, as Jesus did with Thomas?

### **Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Mark 11:19-25**

We close this week looking at what Jesus says about doubt. If we doubt, we lack faith. And if we have faith, we can do all things. Now how does that sound in your ears and your heart? Have you ever tried to move a mountain by telling it to move? Now consider some of the mountains you have had to move in your lifetime. Have you ever considered it was your faith that brought you safely to the other side? Or how about when someone you know faced death. Have you considered how their faith has allowed them to die with dignity and peace, for they knew their next destination? How can you turn to your faith today? What mountain do you need to move? What miracle do you need to happen? How does your doubt get in the way? However, notice there are two things that get in the way of acts of faith – doubt is one, but unforgiveness is the other. I would also add that faith in having something your way instead of God’s way can interfere with acts of faith. So, move in faith not doubt, BUT always move seeking that God’s will be done!

### **Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Exodus 16:25-28.**