

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, open our hearts as we discuss today's message, and help us honestly bring our doubts, fears, and labels before You without hiding or pretending. Remind us that You do not lead us with shame, but with loving conviction that calls us into deeper faith, trust, and obedience. Like Thomas, help us encounter Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, and let that encounter move us to take a clear next step in following Him. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

What's one movie you've seen that surprised you by being more meaningful or thought-provoking than you expected?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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This week, we wrap up our At The Movies series as Pastor Kurt asks: What if the label you have been carrying your entire life was never meant to define you? Drawing from the 2026 blockbuster Project Hail Mary and the biblical account of the disciple Thomas, this sermon challenges the tendency to define people by their worst moments. Just as Ryland Grace was a self-doubting, reluctant hero ("I put the 'not' in astronaut") who grew into courage through unlikely friendship and purpose, Thomas is far more than the "Doubting Thomas" label we often assign him. We explore what it looks like to step into a purpose that feels far too large for us, to be called into something we feel completely unqualified for, and to discover that courage is not the absence of fear but the willingness to move forward anyway. We are invited to see our doubts not as disqualifiers but as the very spaces where faith is forged and where God does some of His most profound work in us. The true remedy to doubt is not certainty but hope, faith, and trust in God's plans and purposes. Ultimately, the message centers on the gospel: humanity's greatest problem is sin, and no human effort, intelligence, or courage can bridge the gap between sinful humanity and our Holy God. Jesus alone is the way, having died for sinners not because they deserved it but because of His perfect 'agape' love for us all. Those who place their faith in Christ receive not only forgiveness but a new identity, free from shame and defined by God's purposes.

READ SCRIPTURE

JOHN 11:11-16, JOHN 14:1-7, JOHN 20:24-29

HEBREWS 11:1-6, ROMANS 5:6-8, JOHN 3:16, 1 PETER 2:9-10

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) What labels from your past or present are you still allowing to define you, and how might God see you differently?

2) Ryland Grace resisted his calling repeatedly, insisting he was not the right person for the mission, yet others kept calling out his value and purpose. Has someone ever spoken purpose into your life when you couldn't see it yourself, and how did that change you?

3) Pastor Kurt defines shame and conviction, arguing that God uses conviction to call us toward purpose rather than to trap us in guilt. How do you tell the difference between shame and the Holy Spirit's conviction in your own life?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Thomas said in John 11:16 that they should go with Jesus even if it meant dying, showing a courage that contradicts his 'doubter' label. How does this challenge the way we tend to reduce people to their worst or most memorable moments?

5) The sermon presents Jesus's declaration in John 14, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," as a statement of fact rather than merely a philosophy or a self-improvement program. What is the difference between adhering to a set of beliefs about Jesus and genuinely placing your trust in Him as your Lord and Savior?

6) 1 Peter 2:9-10 describes believers as chosen, royal, holy, and belonging to God. How should receiving a new identity in Christ practically reshape the way you think about yourself, your failures, and your future?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) The sermon says the antidote to doubt is not certainty but faith, citing Hebrews 11:1. Where is God currently asking you to trust Him in the gap between what you can see and what you are hoping for? In other words, where do you sense Jesus calling you to obey, even though you still have questions or fears?

8) When doubts about God or your faith arise, what practical steps, such as prayer, reading Scripture, journaling, or seeking support from your community, can help you lean into faith rather than pull away?

9) Pastor Kurt ends with the question, "What are you going to do with Jesus?" What daily actions show others that you are trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord rather than trying to save or prove yourself worthy?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that's weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**



Serve Finder - Looking for opportunities for yourself or your group to participate in the amazing Kingdom work happening in, around, and through Northview? Serving is a wonderful way to use your gifts and talents, align with God's plans and purposes, and bring hope to the world. Whether you're looking for a one-time event or a regular opportunity—within the walls of Northview, in our local communities, or around the world—start with Serve Finder!