

# AT THE THRESHOLD

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April 5, 2015

## *John 18 - 21*

### **Personal Stories from John**

Jesus (Matthew 26:38; John 17; 20:11-16)

- You're facing a difficult decision about whether to obey God or not.

Peter (John 13:37-38; 18:16-27; 21:15-17)

- You need to make a decision to follow Jesus with authenticity & integrity.

Thomas (John 20:25-29)

- It's time to stop looking for signs & making excuses: believe in Jesus!

### **Next Steps**

- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.
- I will follow through on a difficult step of obedience God has called me to.



**Lesson Aim:** To determine the next step in life God is calling us to as we look at some of the personal stories of Easter.

**Ice-breaker:** What is your favorite Easter memory or tradition?

Open in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time together.

1. Pastor Josh referenced how he felt when he first realized it was true that the grave was empty and Jesus had risen. When did you first make this realization and how did you feel and respond? If you haven't yet what is holding you back?
2. **Read Revelation 3:20.** Jesus is reaching out to us. How do we accept His offer to join us? What seems to hold people back from accepting this offer from Him?
3. **Read Matthew 26:38.** Even Jesus felt stress in what was going to happen. What is a difficult decision about obeying God you have had to make? If you are still struggling with it, how can you achieve obedience?
4. **Read John 18:16-27.** To be bold for Jesus can be tough, like Peter experienced when he denied knowing Jesus. When is a time that you were able to share your faith in Jesus with another in a situation that required boldness? What holds you back in being a witness for Jesus?
5. **Read John 20:25-29.** Thomas refused to believe Jesus had risen, even after previously seeing Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. Why is it difficult for people to believe in this? How is your own belief level regarding Jesus rising from the dead?

6. Many people continue to look for “signs” or are “making excuses” about following Jesus. Why do you think this is? How would you help someone get past this stage of faith?
7. **Read Romans 3:23-24.** When you think about Christ's love, forgiveness and redemption, how does it bring joy to you personally? Try to be specific.
8. **Read John 3:36.** There is no blurred line here. How is your personal relationship with Jesus? Who comes to mind that you need to reach out to and share the message of Jesus with? Is anything holding you back?

**Daily Devotional Plan** – Scriptures to help remind us that we are called to follow Jesus closely.

Day 1 – 1 Peter 5:6-7

Day 2 – John 14:27

Day 3 – Psalm 34:17-19

Day 4 – Deuteronomy 31:6

Day 5 – Romans 5:8

Day 6 – 2 Timothy 1:7

Day 7 – Romans 8:38-39

To go deeper: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper/journal/laptop/etc.:

- What did you hear? (What did God say to you as you read the Scriptures for the day?)
- What do you think? (What does it mean to you, how does it apply to your life, and what difference will it make to you?)
- What will you do? (What action step will you take? How will you think differently? How will you live differently?)
- Now talk to God (Put your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute each day to write a prayer response to what you read in the Scriptures.)