

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 6: God's Dream

Lesson 3: Unbelief of the Dream

The Cave of Wisdom

The Cave Opening: The Burning Bush - Is this for me?

Welcome back to the cave of “Unbelief”. Do you believe everything that you hear or see? Even at your young age, you probably have encountered situations which now cause you to doubt the truth of things. As you grow older, there will be even more situations encountered. Some incidents may even cause you to doubt God’s Dream for you. “Maybe I misunderstood. Maybe what I want is not from God, but myself.”

How can you know for sure the Dream is real for you? In this lesson, Thomas, a disciple of Jesus also known as “The Twin”, encounters those same doubts. How would you feel if someone you followed was to disappear, then reappear to others, but not to you? Maybe you would feel ignored or forgotten. Or maybe you would think you were no longer a part of the group. Maybe your calling to follow God’s Dream for you was not understood properly. Could it have been meant for others and not for you?

The Circle of Fire: Stop Unbelieving His Word

Scripture: Mark 9:23-24; John 20: 24-29; James 1:5-8

²³"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

²⁴Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

John 20:24-29

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

James 1:5-8

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Biblical Character: Thomas the "Twin"

Thomas could have deserted the disciples, gone away with anger in his heart for three wasted years. In our scripture, Jesus is asked by a boy's father to heal his son ... "if you can". Surely the man had heard of the many miracles Jesus had already performed, yet, he wasn't sure that Jesus could

help his son. When Jesus confirmed he could heal the boy if his father believed, the man asked Jesus not to heal his son, but to help him overcome his unbelief.

Perhaps this is what Thomas meant when he declared that he would not believe the disciples unless he saw Jesus for himself and touched the wounds. The resurrection of Jesus was not just spirit, but physical. Thomas wanted to believe that there would be a life after death with a new body. Jesus proved this to be true by allowing Thomas to touch the wounds from the nails and spear. Jesus helped Thomas's unbelief. He can help yours as well. Ask Jesus to help you to believe in God's Dream for your life. Remember: "Everything is possible for him who believes."

Act the part of Thomas and tell how you felt when the other disciples told you that they had seen Jesus alive and you were not present. I'd want Jesus to appear to me also, after all, did I not devote years to his service as well. Emphasize that you did declare Jesus to be Lord. John does not tell us what Thomas did after seeing Jesus, but you can imagine that he went about proclaiming the risen Lord.

Show the video "*Doubting Thomas*". This video tells the story of Thomas.

Modern Character(s): "Around the Block with Neal Fazzio", a fictional radio broadcast with a host who doubts the existence of Jesus. Show the three part mini movie. (30 minutes) This is one of the best skits I have seen on the subject of Doubt. I encourage you to show it.

The Cave Dark Side Journey: Unbelief is where the dark side wants to place you. If you do not believe the light, how can you walk in the darkness of the world? Be confident in the light God places on your path.

The Tribe: What we see with our eyes can deceive us. What we believe with our heart is true.

Craft: Due to time required for the Stranger Series video, no Craft is recommended.

Recreation Activity: Play the card game “I Don’t Believe It” (See Appendix 6 Recreation)