

we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

1 Youth is continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

had seen Jesus. Only when they saw Him for themselves did they believe. So, realistically, they were all just as doubting as "Doubting Thomas" was.

We also noticed that Jesus would have certainly known that Thomas was not with the other Disciples when He first appeared to them. So why did Jesus choose that particular time to show Himself?

We said that the answer may be found in the last verse, **John 20:29**. We said that Jesus may have been using this whole event as a lesson showing His Disciples how important their faith is. They had only believed in the resurrection after seeing Him for themselves yet they needed to go teach others to have the same faith yet had not seen Jesus for themselves.

When Jesus said "Stop doubting and believe" He was really showing them the power of 'faith with no doubt' that they all needed to have in order to teach others who had not seen to have faith and build the Church. This powerful lesson on faith was only possible because Thomas was not there the first time Jesus appeared to them which resulted in Thomas seeking the truth from Jesus, Himself.

We said that the Disciple's initial doubt of the resurrection and in seeking the truth from the source actually helped them develop such strong faith that, with the Holy Spirit, they were able to do many amazing things for God as seen in the book of **Acts**.

We then looked at an instance where the experience of doubt did not turn out as well.

We went all the way back to **Genesis 3:1-6** where we saw the enemy caused Adam and Eve to doubt God's word or to doubt their faith in what God said was the truth about the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

In this case, instead of seeking the real truth from the source (God), they listened to and believed the serpent's lies or distortion of the truth and we all know how that turned out.

In each instance, we saw people respond to their doubt. In the first instance, seeking the truth from the source led to a stronger faith while in the second instance listening to what they were presented with as truth led to catastrophe.

We said that while God would much rather us have faith with no doubt in order to fully enjoy the amazing life He has planned for us, He also understands we may sometimes have doubts. But, as long as we don't let our doubts lead us away from Him and instead have them cause us to seek Him, then He's probably okay with that because the more we seek Him, the stronger our faith becomes.

We talked about being confronted on nearly a daily basis with our own modern day versions of the "**serpent in the garden**". As we get into Jr High or High School or especially College and even the workforce we will most certainly be exposed to situations or people who may cause us to doubt our faith.

We will be faced with a choice and it can sometimes be very easy to just accept their information as truth (as Adam & Eve did) instead of going to the source and seeking the real truth.

We suggested, when reading the Bible, to pay attention to the various people who had doubts, how they chose to respond to their doubts, and the results of their choices.

Finally, we said we should never be afraid to go to God (the source) with any questions about our faith in His Word. He will always be happy to give us the answers we need.

Upcoming Youth Event

Back to school overnight lock-in!!!

Yes, that's right! Join us on **Friday, August 16th at 9:00pm** for a fun filled night of friends & fellowship that doesn't stop until the next morning at 8:00am!

There will be plenty of fun activities, food, music, and friends to last the whole night. (If you can't make it through the whole night, there will also be gender separated sleeping areas available for those who need to get some rest)

Stop by the Youth Room for more information and to pick up a **Lock-In Rules and permission form** that must be read and signed by a parent and the student.

[You can download a copy here.](#)

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: John 20:24-29, Genesis 3:1-6

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry