**Unbelief to Belief**

*For the week of* **April 17, 2016**

[Scripture and questions for further study]

Easter challenges us to find Jesus among the living, to seek a personal encounter with the risen Jesus. This week we’re working through the story of Thomas and his encounter with Jesus. Through Thomas we learn that doubt and unbelief are not a death sentence, but an opening for Jesus to offer Himself to us as we need Him so that we might believe.

1. John 20:24-29
2. Hebrews 11:1-3
3. Romans 10:5-17
4. Psalm 27

**Questions for Further Study**

1. Thomas’s unbelief was only going to be abolished via a personal and real encounter with Jesus, and Jesus gives Him what he needs. How have you struggled with belief in Jesus? What did you need to truly believe in the risen Jesus? How has Jesus given Himself to you so that you might believe?
2. The definition of faith is found here. The NRSV says, “faith is the *assurance* of things hoped for, the *conviction* of things not seen.” What things do we hope for? Conviction is not an attitude; unseen realities are proved by experience. How does the writer of Hebrews expound upon this idea (the rest of the chapter)? What experiences do you have that have strengthened faith?
3. How does singing this Psalm or reading it daily help cultivate faith? David ends the Psalm with a declaration of belief. How important is it for you to say daily, “I believe?” How does David’s belief effect his view of trouble and danger? How does our belief effect our view of trouble and danger?
4. Paul’s writing to the Romans now shifts us from internal focus to those around us. What is the outcome of faith, of moving from unbelief to belief? If faith comes from what is heard, what does that mean for you and your faith story? What hope does this passage bring to us and to those we encounter regarding belief in Jesus? Who’s the person you encounter that needs to hear the word of Christ (not the Bible)?