

— i Doubt it —

Thomas doubts everything his friends tell him and just won't believe anything until someone tells him about God's amazing love for him in Jesus Christ.

- Actors: Thomas, Friend 1 (most lines), Friends 2 and 3 (can split into more parts if wish)
Jesus (silent action near end of skit)
- Setup: *<Thomas and friends enter, stand to side of altar to keep cross visible>*
- Friend 1: Hey, did you know, it's impossible to lick your elbow?
- Thomas: Oh, I doubt that. I could do it! *<tries, fails>* I still doubt it!
- Friend 2: I heard if you keep your eyes open when you sneeze, you'll pop an eyeball out.
- Thomas: Oh, I doubt that! Watch this. *<sneezes with eyes open>* See, no eyeballs popping out of my head.
- Friend 3: Hey, I heard that a group of twelve or more cows is called a flink.
- Thomas: A what?
- Friend 3: A flink.
- Thomas: That's crazy! I don't believe that!
- Friend 1: Hey I've got one. Did you know that beetles taste like apples?
- Friend 2: Yeah, I know, and wasps taste like pine cones, and worms taste like fried bacon, and spiders taste like...
- Thomas: *<interrupts>* Wait a second! How do you even know that?!
- Friend 2: I read it somewhere.
- Thomas: Oh, good, I thought you guys were actually into eating bugs.
- Friend 2: Um, no.
- Friend 3: I am! *<smiles>* Did you know that in your lifetime you'll eat 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders while you sleep?
- Thomas: No way! That's gross!
- Friend 3: Well, how do you know if you haven't tried it?
- Thomas: I don't know, but that can't be true! Where are you guys getting all these weird facts anyway? Or should I say bogus half-truths?
- Friend 1: Did you know that in 1386, a pig in France was executed by public hanging for the murder of a child?
- Friend 2: Did you know that Coca-Cola would be green if coloring weren't added to it?
- Friend 3: Did you know that banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories per hour?
- Thomas: Oh brother, this is crazy!
- Friend 1: Yeah, I know, but I've got one more totally amazing thing for you to think about.
- Thomas: Okay, what is it this time?
- Friend 1: Did you know *<pause and speak slowly>* that God, loves, YOU?
- Thomas: Oh, I doubt that. How could God actually LOVE a person like me?
- Friend 1: It says in the Bible that God created you in your mother's womb and loved you before you were even born.
- Thomas: Oh I doubt that. Where does it say that anyway?

Friend 1: And Jesus said that God loves us like a good shepherd, who cares for his sheep and watches out for them day and night.

Thomas: I don't know, I've been in some serious trouble, and God never came looking for me. I doubt that too.

Friend 1: Well, did you know that God sent his son Jesus to prove his great love for you?

Thomas: Are you absolutely sure? How did he do that?

Friend 1: Jesus loved you so much, that he was willing to die so you could be forgiven, and know God's love, and have eternal life.

Thomas: Oh, I doubt that. I don't think anyone would actually die for me.

Friend 1: Jesus did. He gave up his life and died on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He did it for you and me, for all who believe in him, so we could have eternal life.

Jesus: *<Silently enters, stands behind altar facing audience, slowly lifts arms out to each side to form the shape of a cross, and bows head>*

Friend 1: For God so loved the world, and that includes you and me, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever, that's you and me again, would believe in him, and not perish, but have eternal life.

Thomas: Wow, when you put it that way, it's hard to doubt God's love for me anymore.

Friend 1: I know, and Jesus really did that for you and me.

Friend 2: And all of us too.

Thomas: I believe in Jesus.

Friend 1: I do too.

Scripture: John 20:24-29 Thomas said, "Unless I see Jesus for myself, I will not believe."
 John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever would believe in him would not perish, but have eternal life.

Message: There are many strange things in life, but perhaps one of the most amazing things is God's love for humanity. It's incredible that God's love for us led to the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, and to top it all off, his death paid the penalty for our sins. If we can realize and believe in this great love of God, we are free to love others in the same way. We are called to tell others about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we grow in faith, the story of God's love in Christ will seem less and less strange, and will begin to make perfect sense. Don't doubt, but believe in the power and love of God!

Questions: What is a weird fact or statistic that is difficult to believe? What would you have done if you were in the disciple Thomas' place? Why is it sometimes difficult to believe in God's love for you? How can you reassure yourself and others of God's love.

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for working through Jesus' live, death, and resurrection to call us to faith in you. Help us to believe in your love and power and grace. Give us courage to share this good news with others. Amen.

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