

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture: John 20:19-31

- The presence of Jesus moves us from doubters to disciples
- Jesus invites us into His mission
- Jesus meets us in our doubts and invites us into a deeper relationship
- The presence of Jesus moves us from doubters to disciples

GET TALKING

Share about an time where you felt like you missed out on something really fun or important.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Last week we asked you to reflect and evaluate where you need to take steps in your spiritual growth. How can this group encourage you to follow through in taking one of those steps:
 - Move into deeper relationship with God asking Him to help you with your unbelief?
 - Take more time in prayer to hear what God has for you?
 - Spend more time in God's Word to understand the truth and grace of God?
 - Go out and make Jesus known to others, spreading the Good News of Jesus?
2. Read John 20:19-31. The disciples were locked away in fear. When Jesus appeared to them, it was because of his scars that His disciples recognized Him. Why do you think Jesus chose to keep His scars in His resurrected body? (You may want to view this short video by Matt Maher on "Why Jesus Kept His Scars" to add some additional insight to your discussion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlOehgsDvMI>)
3. Read Isaiah 53:4-6 in several different versions. In this prophetic passage about Jesus, The Messiah, there are some words used to describe our sin that we don't use in our everyday vocabulary like transgression and iniquity. Look up the definition of these words. How does this deepen your understanding and appreciation of Jesus' wounds giving us peace with God?
4. Thomas had to wait an additional week until he saw the risen Jesus. Why do you think Jesus waited so long to reveal Himself to Thomas? What thoughts and doubts might Thomas have been wrestling with during that week? Share a time when you met Jesus in a profound way after a period of waiting and doubt. What did you learn about God's character during that waiting time? How did God use that time to move you from a doubter to a disciple?

TAKE ACTION

Jesus invited His disciples into His mission to bring the Good News that peace with God is possible because of His death and resurrection, and He gave them the Holy Spirit to empower them for that mission. What doubts, fears and objections do you need to set aside today to fully follow Jesus and be engaged in His mission?

PRAYER

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” - 1 Peter 2:24

- Praise Jesus for being wounded for our sin to bring us peace with God.
- Praise God that through Jesus’ resurrection we can live in hope.
- Pray that your relationship with God would grow deeper as Jesus meets you in your doubts and pain.
- Think of one person you know who does not have a relationship with Jesus. Ask God to empower you for His mission and give you an opportunity to share your hope in Jesus with that person this week.