

# 12

JOHN 20:19-30

## FAITH WITHOUT SIGHT



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

We've all been tricked by deceptive headlines and rumors. Perhaps that's why Jesus's resurrection has always been difficult to grasp. How could a man who was so brutally killed somehow no longer be dead? The key is remembering Jesus's true identity: not merely a man but God Himself! Today we will see the disciples locked away and afraid when Jesus appeared to them and transformed their fear to gladness and peace. One disciple missed this incredible event and refused to believe the testimony of his friends. He needed to touch Jesus's distinct crucifixion wounds in order to believe. A week later, Jesus invited him to do that very thing—and emphasized that there is great blessing in believing without seeing. It shows genuine belief that Jesus is actually God—and with God, all things are possible, even conquering death itself.



### CENTRAL **truth**

We can be confident that Jesus is alive.



EXPLORE.

# scripture

JOHN 20:19-30

## JOHN 20:19-23

**19** When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” **20** Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

**21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” **22** After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

## JOHN 20:24-25

**24** But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to

them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

## JOHN 20:26-30

**26** A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.”

**28** Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” **30** Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

# DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 20:21

## 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# JOHN 20:19-23

## DWELL

← What do you think it was like for the disciples to suddenly see Jesus and to hear Him say "Peace be with you"?

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↪ In what areas of your life do you long for Jesus's peace?

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As the disciples were hiding in fear, they must have been startled to discover that Jesus could conquer locked doors—and then to realize that Jesus could conquer death. What an incredible moment to hear His voice and to see His wounds! Instantly, the room that was probably once filled with anxiety was filled with awe. Not even death on a cross could defeat Jesus. He really is the Son of God!

## MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out John 20:21 on a piece of paper. Read the verse out loud five times. Finally, try to say it out loud five times without looking, trying to picture it in your mind instead.

## PRAY

Tell the Lord about areas in your life that feel chaotic and full of anxiety. Ask Him to impress into your heart His victory over the cross so that you can better experience His peace.

day 2

# MARK 16:9-14

## DWELL

Thomas is usually the only disciple we call “Doubting,” but it seems nearly all of the disciples struggled to believe Jesus was alive. (The exceptions were probably Peter and John. See John 20:3-8.) Even the men who walked closest to Jesus seemed to struggle to grasp that He truly was God and that He had power over death. When we wrestle with doubts, we can remember that we’re not alone—and as we wrestle, we can remember who God is and ask ourselves, “Is anything impossible with God?”

↓ Why do you think doubt is so common?

↔ How would you encourage someone struggling with doubt?

## MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words in John 20:21, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but hey, sometimes movement can help engage our brains!

## PRAY

Confess any areas of doubt in your life, and borrow a prayer from Mark 9:24: “Help my unbelief!”

day 3

# JOHN 20:24-29

## DWELL

Thomas believed in Jesus because he saw. When Jesus responded to this faith, He explained that those who have faith without sight experience a special blessing. “Blessed” is a rich word that means “happy”<sup>2</sup>—but it’s not merely that. A person who believes with childlike faith experiences God’s grace in a special way. It’s like a kid who trusts her dad and knows he loves her: she takes his hand wherever he leads, smiling and skipping all the way.

↑ What does today’s text teach you about what God is like?

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→ In what areas of your life have you wanted to see what God is doing? What would it look like to have faith without that sight?

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## MEMORIZE

Write out John 20:21 on a piece of paper or note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to say it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

## PRAY

Ask God to cultivate a childlike faith within you so that you can take His hand wherever He leads, convinced that He loves you.

<sup>2</sup> James Strong, *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (1890), s.v. “3107. Makários,” Bible Hub, accessed August 30, 2022, <https://biblehub.com/greek/3107.htm>.



day 4

# JOHN 11:8-16

## DWELL

It's good to remember that the people we read about in the Bible were exactly that—people! They aren't fictional, and they aren't flat or one-dimensional. Like all people, they're complex and layered. This text and yesterday's text reveal two different sides of Thomas, and you can probably relate to both! Sometimes, we are bold and full of faith. Other times, we are cynical and hard-hearted. But no matter what happens with us, we can know this: Jesus stays the same.

← What does this passage teach you about Thomas?

↓ How does Thomas's humanity help you better understand your own humanity?

## MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 20:21 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

## PRAY

Praise God that He stays the same! Ask Him to help you remember His character on days when you're full of faith as well as on days when you're struggling to make sense of the world.

day 5

# JOHN 20:30-31

## DWELL

John's Gospel stands out because of poetic moments like these (see also John 21:35). John is seeking to stir our imaginations: What kinds of miracles are not listed in these pages? John is clear that he's given us what we need in order to believe, so we don't need to worry about the miracles that he didn't include. However, we do get to marvel: Jesus is so much more wonderful than we can possibly fathom. If we knew more of Him, the whole world couldn't contain the books that would be written!

↻ Why did John write his Gospel and include the miracles he included?

↻ How do these passages prompt you to praise God?

## MEMORIZE

Share John 20:21 with a friend or family member and explain what it means. Then, invite them to randomly quiz you at some point today to see if you can remember the verse.

## PRAY

Praise God for all you know about Him—and all you don't know about Him!