

# "Peace Be With You"

JOHN 20 · LESSON 23

Now on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week... (John 20:1)  
We last heard Jesus cry out from the cross, "It is finished" as he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19 ended with his body laying in a tomb. But on Sunday—the first day of the week — \_\_\_\_\_ Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone covering the tomb had been taken away. She ran and told Simon \_\_\_\_\_ "and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved," explaining what she had seen. Running to the tomb, they found the linen burial cloths lying there, and even the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head, folded up in a place by itself. That's not what anyone would expect to see if Jesus' body had been stolen.

As they went back to their homes, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. When she looked inside, she saw two \_\_\_\_\_ sitting where the body of Jesus had lain.

When Mary noticed someone standing behind her, she assumed it was the gardener. But when the risen Jesus called her by name, Mary knew who he was and believed.

That same evening, the disciples were together behind locked doors "for fear of the Jews." Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "\_\_\_\_\_ be with you" (20:19), showing them his hands and his side. He explained that he was sending them, as the Father had sent him. But \_\_\_\_\_, one of the Twelve wasn't there. When the other disciples explained that they had seen the Lord, Thomas said, "Unless I \_\_\_\_\_ in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will \_\_\_\_\_ believe" (20:25).

Eight days later, the disciples were locked inside again, and Thomas was with them. When Jesus appeared and repeated, "Peace be with \_\_\_\_\_," he invited Thomas to do exactly what he had said it would take. "Do not disbelieve, but \_\_\_\_\_" (20:27). And Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!" Listen carefully to what Jesus said next: "Have you believed because you have seen me? \_\_\_\_\_ are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (20:29). Isn't that what John's Gospel has been all about all along? We've highlighted his mission statement over and over again:

Now Jesus did many other \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ name. (20:30-31)  
Let's talk about it...



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Throughout the Old Testament, the seventh day of the week—the Sabbath day—had special religious significance. But something changes in the New Testament. “The first day of the week” comes to have special significance for disciples of Jesus. Why?
- Notice how Mary Magdalene explains what she thinks has happened in 20:2, 13, 15, and even what John tells us in 20:9. What were these earliest disciples struggling to believe at this point?
- Did you notice what Jesus reveals to Mary in 20:17? His resurrection is not the final step in completing the plan of his Father. What else is involved, and why is it significant?
- Of all the ways Jesus could greet his disciples, “Peace be with you” (20:19, 26). Why do you think he said that? What do you think it would have meant for his disciples to hear him say that?
- What does Jesus reveal about their next steps in 20:21? What does he have in mind?
- What should we make of what he says and does in 20:22-23?
- Is there anything we can learn from the example of Thomas (20:24-28)?
- In your own words, how would you rephrase what Jesus says in 20:29?
- How does John 20 help to fulfill John’s mission statement in 20:30-31?
- Is the resurrection really that significant? If Jesus has not been raised from the dead...