

JOHN 20-21

April 28, 2021

1. In Hebrews 11:6 there is a promise for those who seek God. What is this promise?

How has this been true in your life?

2. After Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene was one of the women who went to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning after Passover. Read John 20:1-2. What upset Mary when she arrived at the tomb?

Look closely at the circumstances surrounding Mary Magdalene and her actions. What insights do you glean about Mary's relationship with Jesus from these two verses?

3. Read John 20:3-10 to see John's (the disciple whom Jesus loved) and Peter's reactions to the removed stone. Compare their actions and attitudes.

Read verses 8-9 again. Even though the disciples did not understand from Scripture the Messiah would rise from the dead, what did John believe after seeing the linen cloths?

Later, Peter used Scripture to explain Jesus' resurrection after Jesus had returned to heaven. Read his sermon in Acts 2:22-32 and record all you learn about Christ's resurrection.

As followers of Jesus, how important is our belief in His resurrection? Why? Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

4. Read John 20:11-18. The first person to see the resurrected Christ and announce the resurrection was a woman. What comes to mind when you consider this fact?

After Jesus asks Mary why she is weeping, He asks her another question. Record this question.

Jesus honors those who seek Him. What do we learn from His words in Matthew 6:31-33?

Carefully read Jesus' words to Mary in John 20:17. What new word does Jesus use to describe His disciples in John 20:17?

What might this mean when considering the rest of His words in verse 17?

5. In John 20:19, we find the disciples hiding and helpless behind locked doors. What wonderful greeting does Jesus bring them to calm their hearts?

Read verses 20-23. What important work does Jesus have planned for His disciples according to verse 21?

Who will be their source of strength as they tell others about the redemption available through Jesus Christ?

6. Read verses 24-29. How does Jesus demonstrate grace for Thomas in this story?

What does Thomas come to realize when he stands in the presence of the resurrected Lord?

What words does Jesus speak to Thomas that are an encouragement to us today? Also read Hebrews 11:1.

7. In John 21, we travel to the Sea of Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee. Here Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples again. Read John 21:1-14 along with an earlier fishing excursion in Luke 5:3-11. How did John know it was the Lord who directed their successful catch of fish in John's story?

Contrast Peter's responses to the presence of the Lord from both of these accounts.

After Jesus' ascension, Peter shared the gospel with Gentiles and mentioned the significance of eating with the resurrected Christ. Read Acts 10:39-43. What had changed in Peter's fishing career?

8. Just after Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times for fear of the religious leaders. He may have felt unqualified to be used by Jesus for future ministry. Read John 21:15-19 and explain how Jesus restored Peter for future apostolic kingdom work.
9. Read verses 20-23. What great lesson did Peter learn as he focused on the future of a friend?

Consider a time when you focused on God's will in someone else's life to the detriment of your own relationship with God. What did you learn about the danger of this behavior?

10. To end this incredible gospel of John, read verses 24-25. What reasons does John give us to believe what he has written?

Read the purpose of this book in verses 30-31. What has been accomplished in your life as we have studied this wonderful book?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

THE CROWNING PROOF

John 20-21

THE REALITIES OF THE RESURRECTION

Our entire Christian faith is based on the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If the resurrection of Jesus never happened:

We will not be resurrected, we are still in our sins, and Jesus is not the Son of God.

Jesus appeared exclusively to His followers to confirm their faith in the living Christ.

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE AT THE TOMB 20:1-18

Mary's strong devotion to Jesus took her to the cross and now to His tomb.

John and Peter saw Jesus' grave clothes still arranged in the shape of His body.

Mary received special graces as the first to see the risen Lord and be given a holy task.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS 20:19-23

Jesus showed them evidence of His crucifixion so they might believe in His resurrection.

They received a new purpose: _____, a new power: _____, and a new privilege: _____.

JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS AND THE DISCIPLES 20:24-29

Thomas created his own plan in order to believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus lovingly met Thomas at the point of his weakness.

Thomas acknowledged that the man he followed for three years was God in the flesh.

JESUS APPEARS TO SEVEN DISCIPLES ON THE SEA OF GALILEE 21:1-25

Jesus used a familiar setting to demonstrate His provision for the disciples' future.

Three times Jesus let Peter reaffirm his love for Him and receive a commissioning.

SEEKING OUR RISEN SAVIOR

Like Mary Magdalene, we _____ in our pursuit.

Like John, we believe the _____.

Like the disciples, we _____ His presence.

Like Thomas, we set aside our _____.

Like Peter, we _____ our love and obedience.

KEY: go, Holy Spirit, proclaim, persevere, evidence, desire, pride, affirm

JESUS the WORD – John 20-21

April 28-29, 2021

1 CORINTHIANS 15:17-19 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

JOHN 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

JEREMIAH 29:13 “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

ROMANS 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-7 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

1 PETER 1:8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 PETER 5:1-3 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

PSALM 42:1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.