

Life Group Guide John 20:19–29 “The Reality of the Resurrection”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Mar 31 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Apr 7

Icebreaker Question

What is your favorite Easter tradition?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

I. Accepting the reality of the resurrection results in a personal encounter with the resurrected Christ (vv. 19-24).

Three results of a personal encounter with the resurrected Christ.

- a. A personal encounter with the resurrected Christ brings unexplainable peace (v. 19a).
- b. A personal encounter with the resurrected Christ brings purpose (v. 21).
- c. A personal encounter with the resurrected Christ brings power (vv. 22-23).

II. Rejecting the reality of the resurrection results in a missed opportunity to encounter the resurrected Christ (vv. 24-29).

What happens when you miss an encounter with the risen Christ?

- a. A missed encounter with the risen Christ results in a life filled with doubt and confusion (vv. 24-25).
- b. A missed encounter with the risen Christ results in a denial of the reality of the resurrection (v. 25).
- c. A missed encounter with the risen Christ results in a delay in the work that God desires to do in your life (vv. 26-29).

John 20:19–23

Read John 20:19–23: Observation:

- 1. Where are the disciples in v. 19? Why?
- 2. According to v. 19, what does Jesus say to his disciples when he appears in the room with them?
- 3. In vs. 20, what does Jesus show to his disciples when he appears to them after his resurrection?
- 4. How do the disciples respond to Jesus’ appearance and words in v. 20?
- 5. What does Jesus say to his disciples in v. 21?
- 6. In v. 22a, what does Jesus do that foreshadows the coming of the Holy Spirit?
- 7. In v. 22b, what does Jesus say as he sends his disciples out to be his missionaries.?

Interpretation:

- 8. What do you think is the connection between v. 20 (the wounds of Christ), v. 21 (our commission as missionaries), and v. 22 (the reception of the Holy Spirit)? (Hint: Paul explains this in detail in 2 Corinthians 5!)

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- 9. What does Jesus mean when he tells the disciples that they will be instrumental to whether or not some will have their sins forgiven in v. 23? What does this mean for us?
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Application:

10. What are some of the biggest challenges we face in trying to live as missionaries, as the ones Jesus sends into the world to proclaim the gospel?

11. Who are the people with whom you can share the gospel this week (or at least begin to have a gospel conversation)? Brainstorm with your group some strategies for how you might do that.

John 20:24–29

Read John 20:24–29: Observation

12. According to v. 24, who is not there when Jesus originally appears to his disciples?

13. In v. 25, how does Thomas respond when his friends tell him that they have seen the risen Christ?

14. When Jesus appears to Thomas in vs. 26-27, how does Jesus treat Thomas? What does Jesus offer Thomas?

15. How does Thomas respond to Jesus' kindness and mercy in v. 28?

16. What does Jesus say to Thomas in v. 29?

Interpretation:

17. What is the relationship between God's kindness and patience toward us and our faith? How can we live out that truth as we share the gospel?

Application:

18. Take some time in your group to talk about how God has shown his patience and kindness toward you. Give a brief testimony of a time when Jesus treated you like he treats Thomas in this passage.

19. In the sermon, Pastor Richard offered us three positive results of believing the gospel (peace, purpose, and power) and three negatives results of rejecting the gospel (doubt and confusion, denial of the resurrection, and a delay in doing God's work). How would you explain these to an unbeliever? Brainstorm with your group some strategies for doing this.
