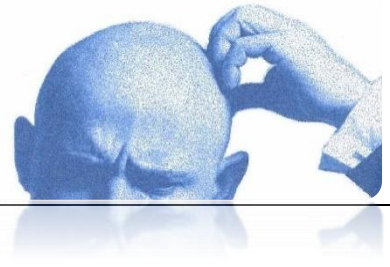


Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.
Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series during the season of Easter will look at resurrection appearances in John 20-21. Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories *BEFORE* you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **John 20:19-23**. What do you notice?
- The disciples were hiding behind locked doors out of fear. Should we see their fear as understandable and human—or as a failure of faith after everything they witnessed? What does this say about how we judge fear in believers today?
- Jesus immediately speaks “peace” rather than rebuke. Does this suggest that we are too quick to correct and not quick enough to comfort—or does it risk minimizing failure?
- Jesus showed his wounds as proof of his resurrection. Does faith need evidence, or does relying on proof undermine true belief?
- “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (v. 21). These words point to Jesus being the paradigm for mission—we are sent *as Jesus has been sent*. How did the Father send Jesus into the world?
- What does this tell us about “the shape” of the mission—how we to be in the world?
- Notice that sending is immediately connected to receiving the Holy Spirit. Why is this connection important?
- Is this the moment the disciples are fully empowered—or is it incomplete until Pentecost? What does this tension reveal about how and when God gives his Spirit?
- Jesus gives the disciples authority to forgive or withhold forgiveness. Is this authority something the church still holds today? If so, how do we prevent abuse of that power? If not, why was it given at all?