

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”*The Gospel of John***John 20:19–31****Read John 20:19–31**

In the preceding lessons, we saw Christ’s disciples forsake, deny and abandon him. In contrast, the risen Jesus demonstrates his forgiveness, love and concern for the disciples by sending word that he is alive, going to find them, and repeatedly making himself known to them.

1. John tells us that the disciples were hiding out behind locked doors because they were fearful of the Jews.
 - a. Why do you think they are afraid? (Consider Jn. 15:20, 16:1–2)
 - b. Jesus appears to his disciples in spite of locked doors (vv. 19, 26). What do you think this tells us about the nature of Jesus’ resurrected body?
2. How is Jesus’ promise in Jn. 16:16, 19–20 fulfilled? (v. 20)
3. Why does Jesus show the disciples his hands and side? (Lk. 24:36–40; Acts 1:3)
4. Jesus addresses the disciples’ fear by saying, “Peace be with you” (v. 19). What new and deeper meaning does this greeting carry because of his death and resurrection? (Rom. 5:1; Col. 1:19–23)
5. Having provided his disciples peace, what does Jesus now do? (v. 21)
6. To carry on the work Jesus began during his earthly ministry, the disciples will need wisdom, guidance, and power from a source outside themselves.
 - a. In whom will they find these resources? (v. 22)
 - b. When will the disciples experience the full impact of the promised Spirit and have boldness replace their fear? (Acts 1:4–5; 2:1–4, 32–33)

7. At first reading, verse 23 seems to be saying that Jesus has given the disciples the power to forgive (or not forgive) the sins of others, but only God can forgive sins (Ps. 130:3–4). As the disciples are being sent out to proclaim who Jesus is and what he has done, people will either accept or reject Jesus. Look at these verses (Jn. 3:17–18; Acts 10:42–43; 1 Jn. 1:9) and answer the following questions:
 - a. If they believe in Jesus, what can be said about their sins?
 - b. If they choose not to believe in Jesus, what can be said about their sins?
8. Thomas is not present the first time Jesus appears to his disciples.
 - a. How does Thomas respond when they tell him they have seen the Lord? (v. 25)
 - b. Why do you think Thomas is so adamant about seeing the risen Jesus himself?
9. Jesus appears to the disciples a week later and addresses Thomas' doubts.
 - a. What characterizes Jesus' interaction with Thomas? (vv. 26–27)
 - b. How does Thomas respond when given the opportunity to touch the wounds in Jesus' hands and side? (v. 28)
10. Jesus knows future believers will not have the same opportunity as Thomas.
 - a. What does he say about them? (v. 29)
 - b. What does Jesus provide for those who have not seen him? (vv. 30–31; Acts 10:41–42; 1 Jn. 1:1–3)
11. Thomas sees the hard evidence of Jesus' resurrection and then takes the next step to believe and worship. How do you respond to the evidence John gives us in his gospel (vv. 30–31)?