

LENT

THE WAY OF REPENTANCE

WEEK SEVEN: FOR APRIL 5 SERMON

JOHN 20

OPENER/LENT CHECK-IN

As we reach the final stretch of Lent, how has your perspective on Jesus shifted? Is there anything in your life (a habit, a hope, or a fear) that God has been working on during this season? *Celebrate the perseverance of the group. Close by asking the Holy Spirit to move the discussion from “head knowledge” to “life-giving belief.”*

CONTEXT

- **The New Creation (v. 1):** John notes it is the “first day of the week.” Just as God began creation on the first day in Genesis, Jesus begins the New Creation in the garden. The Resurrection is the “re-birth” of the world.
- **The Breath of Life (v. 22):** When Jesus breathes on the disciples, it is a deliberate echo of Genesis 2:7, when God breathed life into Adam. Jesus is performing a “spiritual resuscitation” on His followers.
- **The Purpose of the Signs (v. 30–31):** John explicitly states his reason for writing his Gospel: He didn’t write a biography; he wrote a “Sign-Post.” Every miracle in his Gospel was curated to lead the reader to one conclusion: Jesus is the Christ, and in Him is Life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who in this story do you relate to most and why?

2. What do we learn about God/Jesus from this passage?
3. What do we learn about man/us from this passage?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?
5. In verses 30–31, John says these signs are written so that you might have life in His name. The Greek word for life here does not just mean biological existence, but the “fullness of God’s life.” Where does your spiritual life currently feel “stale” or “dead”? How does the specific promise of the Resurrection offer a hope for renewal in that area right now? ***It's not just “going to heaven when I die”; it's the power of the Spirit helping them forgive an enemy, find joy in a trial, or break a long-standing addiction. Connect the “Sign” of the empty tomb to the “Sign” of a transformed life.***
6. Jesus tells the disciples, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (v. 21). If John’s Gospel is a book of signs meant to help the world believe, then we, too, are signs sent to our neighborhoods and workplaces. Who in your life are you pointing to Jesus? How can your group help you? ***Help them see themselves as people sent by Jesus. Easter is not just another day; it is THE day in which Jesus secured eternal life for all those who trust in him. Encourage them to name one person and one specific act—perhaps a word of hope, an act of service, or an invitation to the Easter service—that acts as a “sign” pointing that person toward Jesus.***

PARTNER PRAYER TIME split into pairs

The Confession: Briefly share one area where you feel lifeless or stagnant in your spiritual life.

The Commission: Have your partner pray for you to grow in and experience the renewed life of Jesus in that area.

Leader: Close your time together by reminding them that “As the Father has sent Jesus, He is now sending us.”