

CLAIMED BY GOD

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

04/19/2026

Sermon Summary: In this Confirmation Sunday sermon from John 20:19-31, Pastor Elizabeth explores how the resurrection isn't just a historical moment but a transforming reality for our daily lives. Using the metaphor of "mile markers" on a road trip, she shows how baptism and other faith milestones help us see both how far God has brought us and where He's leading us. When Jesus appears to the frightened, hiding disciples, He doesn't condemn their fear—He offers peace, shows His wounds as signs of mercy rather than accusation, and commissions them to share that same forgiveness with others. Even Thomas's doubts are met with compassion as Jesus invites him to "come and see." The risen Christ still walks into our locked rooms today—into our anxiety, grief, and uncertainty—declaring "peace be with you" and reminding us that we are not defined by our circumstances or fears, but by our baptism: marked with the cross of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and beloved by the Father. Resurrected people become people of peace, mercy, and hope who carry this story forward.

Conversation Starter: What's one 'mile marker' moment in your life—a time when you could look back and clearly see how far God had brought you?

Prayer: Risen Lord Jesus, just as You walked through locked doors to meet Your fearful disciples with peace, come now and meet us where we are. Remind us that we are Your beloved, marked by baptism and sent to live as people of peace, mercy, and hope. Amen.

Read Scripture together: John 20:19-21

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- What "locked doors"—fears, anxieties, or areas of hiding—are you facing right now? How does knowing Jesus walks through walls to meet you change your perspective?
- Jesus showed His wounds as signs of mercy, not accusations. How does this reshape how you think about your past failures or wounds others have caused you?
- Where in your faith journey do you most relate to Thomas? What helps you move from doubt to belief?
- Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." What does it practically look like for you to be "sent" as a person of peace and mercy into your workplace, neighborhood, or family?
- How do we cultivate authentic encounter with Christ when we can't physically see or touch Him like Thomas did?
- Have you ever wanted to hide from God rather than draw near? What was Jesus actually inviting you toward in that moment?
- In what area of your life do you need the reality of the resurrection to break through this week? How would living as a "resurrected person" change your next steps?

Memory Verse: John 20:29

"Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus,

We thank You for the mile markers of Your faithfulness in our lives and for the promise that our destination is life with You forever. As we go from this place, help us live as resurrected people who carry Your peace, mercy, and hope into a world that desperately needs it. Amen.