

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

EASTER WEEK 2

The resurrection of the Son of God

John 20:1-31



DAY 1

Jesus was not in the tomb • John 20:1-10

READ

John 20:1-18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 20:1-10

Because Jesus rose from the dead, He is able to offer new and full life to everyone who believes. But that first Easter started with grief, fear, and doubt. Jesus' followers did not yet see that even His death was victory, fulfilling so many prophecies and opening the way for sinners to come back to God. When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, she expected to find a dead body. So it is not true when some say that Jesus' followers expected the resurrection so much that they imagined it or made it up. Peter and John did not expect a physical resurrection either, but they couldn't deny the evidence. If robbers had taken the body, they would not have unwrapped it and folded up the head wrapping. These details convinced John that Jesus had risen from the dead, but he still didn't realize that this is what Jesus and the Old Testament had predicted (John 10:18; Mark 8:31; Ps 16:10; 22:15-26; Isa 53:9-10). Although neither the disciples nor Mary understood it all yet, they were three witnesses that the tomb was strangely empty (Deut 17:6).

ASK

1. Who went to the tomb first?
Mary Magdalene.
2. Why was Mary surprised and sad when she saw the tomb?
The stone was rolled away. She thought someone moved Jesus' body.
3. What did Peter and John see in the tomb?
The cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus.
4. Which one reached the tomb first?
John.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus' followers were slow to believe the resurrection. How does this show that the resurrection really happened?
2. If robbers had taken the body, why would they not have unwrapped it and folded up the head wrapping?

DAY 2

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene • John 20:11–18

READ

John 20:1–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 20:11–18

Mary was sad because she was still confused. Her grief shows her deep love for Jesus, but she still did not fully comprehend who Jesus really was. She didn't see yet that this Jesus was much greater than she ever imagined—great enough to conquer death. This explains why she wanted to cling to Him: she had lost Him once, and she did not want to lose Him again. But she needed to let go and realize that He was much more than a physical human being. He was God Himself (John 1:18). He had broken into the world to make the Father known, and now that His mission on earth was done, He needed to ascend back to heaven. Also, Mary had to let go so that she could carry out her own mission. She had to tell the others that they were now brothers of Jesus, sharing with Jesus the same Father—God Himself. In other words, Mary was sent to say that the way to God is open. His risen life proved that His mission was successful and acceptable to the Father.

ASK

1. Why was Mary still sad after seeing the angels?
She still didn't realize that Jesus was God and able to rise from the dead.
2. Why did Mary cling to Jesus?
She had lost Him once, and she did not want to lose Him again.
3. What did Jesus call His disciples?
My brothers. They could now have a relationship with God as their Father.

DISCUSS

1. Why was Jesus going to return to the Father?
2. How can you benefit from Jesus' risen life (Rom 10:9–10)?

DAY 3

Jesus appeared to the disciples to bring them peace •
John 20:19–21a

READ

John 20:19–31

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 20:19–21a

Despite the news, the disciples were still afraid that evening. Jesus came to change that, twice speaking peace to them. **Peace** is more than quietness. It is also freedom from fear, wholeness of life, well-being, and true prosperity. The disciples could be at rest, no longer worrying, because Jesus' risen life proved that His death was victory. His death justifies sinners so that

they can have peace with God (Rom 5:1), and His risen life destroys fear of death (1 Cor 15:55). Imagine the disciples' relief! They had abandoned and denied Jesus a few days earlier, but now Jesus was saying, "Don't worry. All is forgiven. All is well." And He proved it: His scars proved He really was Jesus, and they also proved that He really did suffer. His suffering shows that He knows and sympathizes with our pain. Even more, His suffering shows that He bore our pain to give us peace (Isa 53:5). No wonder the disciples' fear turned into joy!

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Why did the disciples have the doors locked?
They were afraid of the Jews. They thought they too might experience persecution like Jesus.
2. What word did Jesus use to greet the disciples?
Peace.
3. What is peace?
Peace is quietness, freedom from fear, wholeness of life, well-being, true prosperity, rest, and freedom from worry.

DISCUSS 

1. How do Jesus' scars show that He knows and sympathizes with our pain (Heb 4:15)?
2. Would you describe your life as a peaceful one? If so, why? If not, how can you find new peace in Jesus?

DAY 4

Jesus appeared to the disciples to give them a mission • John 20:21b–23

READ 

John 20:19–31

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 20:21b–23**

Now that the disciples had peace with the Father, they could begin their own mission according to Jesus' example. The Father sent Jesus to make the Father known, display His greatness, and bring people to be with Him forever. This is the calling now of every believer (Matt 5:16; 2 Cor 5:20). Since this is too hard for us as mere humans, God gives believers the power of the Spirit. To show this, Jesus breathed on the disciples. His breath showed that He was alive and that the new covenant—the promise of new life by the Spirit—was coming true (Ezek 37:9–14). The Spirit Himself would come about 50 days later (Acts 2). In addition to the Spirit's power, God also gave them confidence to complete their mission. Jesus was not saying that humans have authority to forgive sins, since only God can do that (Mark 2:7; Dan 9:9). Instead, He was saying that when they preach that all who believe in Christ are forgiven, they certainly are forgiven. Jesus gives all His followers certainty in the gospel, so that they can accomplish their mission with confidence.

ASK 

1. How is a Christian's mission like Jesus' mission?
Both are sent to make God known and bring people to God by humbly obeying to the point of death.
2. Why did Jesus breathe and say, "Receive the Holy Spirit"?
By breathing, He showed that He was alive and had the power of God to give them life and power in the Spirit.
3. Besides the Spirit, what else does Jesus give to help His followers do their job?
He gives them confidence that their message of forgiveness is absolutely true.

DISCUSS 

1. What is an ambassador? How are you fulfilling your role as Christ's representative (2 Cor 5:20)?
2. Did Jesus minister in the power of the Spirit (John 1:32)? Do you live in reliance on the Spirit?

DAY 5

Jesus appeared to the disciples with Thomas • John 20:24–31

READ

John 20:19–31

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 20:24–31

Mary's grief and the disciples' fear had been replaced by peace and joy, but Thomas still doubted. He didn't necessarily doubt more than the others, since he simply wanted the same evidence. Eight days later, Jesus gave it to him. Seeing the evidence, Thomas **believed**. He accepted the truth that Jesus was alive and humbly submitted to Him, gave allegiance to Him, and relied upon Him. In fact, Thomas was the first to express exactly what the resurrection proved: Jesus was in fact the true God, reigning as Lord with power over all. We do not get what Thomas got. We have not seen Jesus physically standing right in front of us. But we can still believe. We can believe because eyewitnesses like Thomas saw Him, and because eyewitnesses like John recorded the signs for us. The most important sign of all—the bodily resurrection of Jesus—confirms that the Messiah is in fact the Son of God, the One sent by God but also equally God (John 1:14). And the resurrection confirms that the Messiah and Son (Ps 2) is in fact the man named Jesu.

ASK

1. What did Thomas call Jesus when he saw Him?
My Lord and my God.
2. Why can we believe even without seeing Jesus?
Because eye-witnesses recorded the signs—especially His resurrection—for us to believe.
3. If we believe that the Messiah and Son is Jesus, what will He give us?
Eternal life, which is to live with and know God forever (John 17:3).
4. What does Jesus' bodily resurrection prove?
That the Messiah is the Son of God, and that the Son of God is Jesus.

DISCUSS

1. How is Thomas' doubt more evidence that the disciples did not expect or make up Jesus' resurrection?
2. Having heard the evidence, what do you believe? What difference does that make in your life?