

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

John 20:19-31  
October 30, 2022  
Questions - Ted

## Story

On the evening of his resurrection, Jesus enters the room where his disciples are gathered behind locked doors and says to them, *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you"* (21). Then he breathes on them and says *"receive the Holy Spirit"*. The disciples report the news to Thomas, but he refuses to believe unless he touches the wounds himself. Eight days later Jesus comes to them again. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. Thomas believes, saying, *"My Lord and My God"* (28). Thomas saw and believed. Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who believe without seeing.

Jesus sends you. Jesus sends me. Christians are "sent ones". We are sent with the message of New Creation, peace and reconciliation with God, sent with the very breath of God in our lungs, the Holy Spirit, and sent in the reality that Jesus truly was resurrected. All Christians are sent. The question is not *if* we are sent, but *how* and to *whom* are we sent? And *will* we be faithful as those who are sent by Jesus?

## Questions

1. Take into consideration that Jesus sends us just as the Father sent him. How would you describe how the Father sent Jesus? Since we are now sent by Jesus, how is our sending similar to the way Jesus was sent and how is it different?
2. Does Vs. 23 mean we have the power to absolve people from sin? What is Jesus talking about?
3. What does receiving the Holy Spirit have to do with being sent? Ted said this was the institution of a new priesthood. What does that mean and why does it matter?
4. One challenge from the sermon was to have at least one *Gospel Conversation* with an unbeliever this week. A Gospel Conversation means talking with someone about who Jesus is, what he did for us, and how we can respond to him in faith. Did anyone have any Gospel Conversations this week? If so, share with the group. If not, what is stopping you?
5. Would you commit to having at least one Gospel Conversation with an unbeliever this week? Come back next week and talk about what went well and what didn't.