



EASTER – CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Community Group Study Guide: John 20 – Week of April 9, 2023

Christ has Risen! Therefore:

1. *Fear has been overcome by Peace*

In the aftermath of Jesus' death, the disciples were in the grips of fear. They locked themselves away, worried about what the Jews might do. Their faith had forgotten the promises of God. Into their isolated fear stepped the risen Savior. Jesus appeared, showing His victory over death, and proving the fulfillment of what had been promised. Because Jesus had risen from the dead, their fear had been overcome with His peace. Likewise, we ourselves should look to the risen Savior for our peace. When we face trial and hardship, we can preach to ourselves that even death no longer has authority over us, because Jesus has conquered it. We can remember the love of God, His faithfulness and goodness. We see in Jesus' resurrection that God has and will fulfill His promises, no matter the circumstance. This gives us peace.

2. *Futility has been overcome by purpose*

Because Christ has risen, we now have a new purpose, a heavenly commission. Unlike before, our lives in Christ are no longer futile. We once lived with fear, anxiety, and a hope that was placed in something that could never save us. Now, with the war won in Christ, He commands us to go bravely into battle. He has given us a mission and purpose that we can commit ourselves to. Our objective is to proclaim that there is forgiveness for sins. This Gospel is available through the reconciliation provided by Christ. We have purpose. We are the ministers of God's message for the world.

3. *Frustration has been overcome by passion (24-29)*

Life without purpose lived in fear produces hardness; it produces frustration. The unfulfilled longing that leads to so much our frustration is from our need to be loved. Like Thomas, we can look upon the wounds of our Savior, and

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Jesus rose from the dead, and has won the war with death. This fact changes the way we view our circumstances, our purpose, and our passions.

Heart

We now can have our passions renewed, leading us to follow the purpose Christ has given us. In times of trouble, we can remind ourselves of God's continued faithfulness, and that He always fulfills what He has promised.

Hands

We are to boldly pursue what the Lord has commissioned us to do. We are to proclaim that the debt of sin has been paid for by the blood of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Meeting

4/16 @ 1:45 pm

Members Meeting

5/7 @ 1pm

understand His demonstrated love for us. The beauty of all that He has sacrificed should melt away the hardness of our hearts, and leave us with new passion. This passion is fuel by all that has been done for us.

Read John Chapter 20

1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important to the Gospel message? Why is it, that if Christ had not been raised, that the Gospel message would be preached in vain? (1 Corinthians 15:14)
2. Why does the resurrection of Christ bring peace? What fears does Christ's victory silence? How can the change from fear to peace be used as a tool for evangelism?
3. Where are/where have you been challenged to have peace in your life? How are you being instructed and transformed in those areas?
4. What purpose do we have in Christ? How does that purpose influence even our daily mundane tasks?
5. What does it look like to have passion in your life? Where does that passion get expressed? How/Why/Where must we guard ourselves against frustration?
6. Pastor Shane mentioned some of the similarities between what John is writing in chapter 20 and the creation account in Genesis. What are some of those similarities? Why are they significant?
7. **Read Verse 23** What does Jesus mean by this statement? How should we apply this to our evangelism?