

## “Spoiler Alert”

### 1. READ

#### **Scripture: John 20:19-20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

#### **Scripture: John 16:7 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

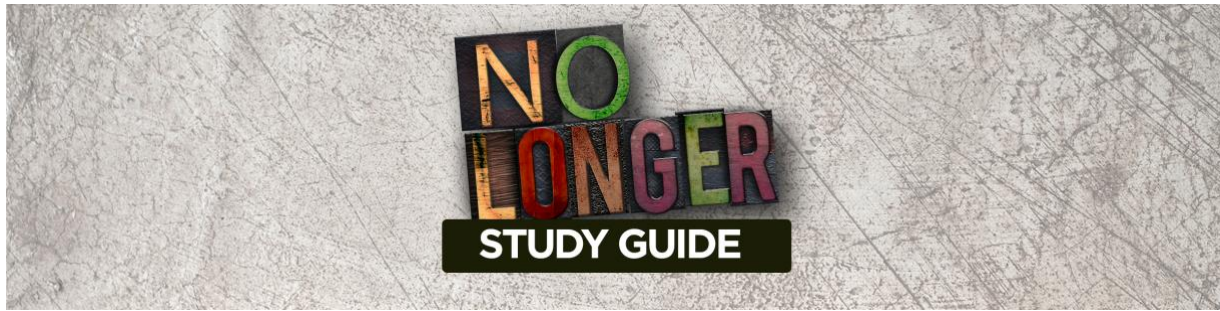
<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate<sup>[a]</sup> will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

#### **Scripture: Acts 1:3 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

#### **Scripture: Matthew 28: 18-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”<sup>[a]</sup>



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**Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: John 20, John 16, Acts 1 and Matthew 28**

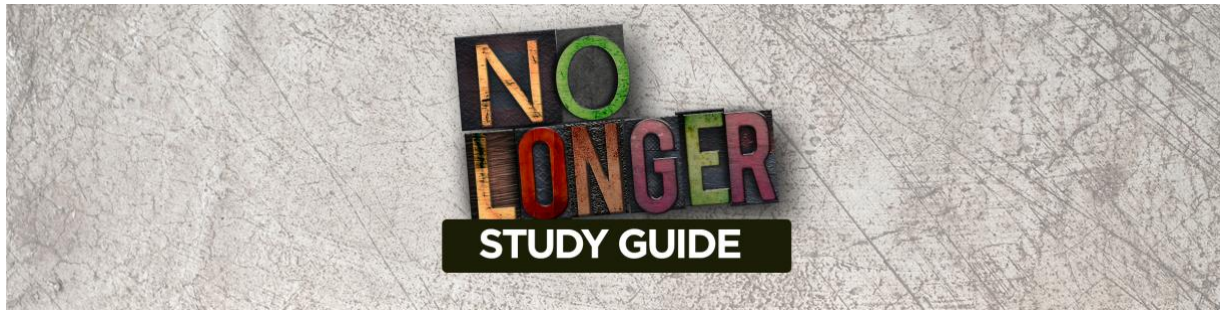
### 2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



This week Pastor Watley continues his sermon series “No Longer.” This series is designed to encourage us to trust God with the “no longer” moments of our lives. God will always show up in our lives even when it seems like we’re alone because we are never alone. God will never leave us nor forsake us because we are now “no longer” the person we were in the past. Pastor Watley’s sermon title this week is “Spoiler Alert.” He tells us in the introduction from the movie Thor that while the character Thor spends the movie trying to obtain what he already had, we are the same. The spoiler alert is that God has already given us what we need to achieve our purpose. We need to trust God and look back “no longer.” We indeed have more power and anointing than we realize, and this is the lesson that Pastor Watley is sharing with us from the Bible today.

The scripture is clear that during this moment after the Resurrection that people thought because Jesus died that he couldn’t be the Messiah. Pastor Watley shared this quote from Theologian Ron Sider, *“first-century Jew, however, knew that anyone who claimed to be the Messiah and then got crucified by the Romans instead of defeating them in battle was a fraud. Jesus had claimed to be the Messiah. But he had failed! Therefore his claims were false. He was a fraud. On Saturday after the*



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*crucifixion, the disciples were probably as angry at Jesus as they were anguished over his death. The Gospels clarify that the disciples were not expecting the crucified Jesus to rise from the dead.*

Pastor helps us to understand that we read the Bible already knowing the end, the Spoiler Alert. We know that Jesus comes back from the dead, and we assume that the disciples know it and believe it as well. However, Pastor shows us that the disciples didn't expect Jesus to back alive, nor did the women at the tomb. These women were coming to take care of the dead body. Of course, they got there, the body was gone, and when Jesus arrived, he showed them his hands and feet to show the scars that were left.

The tension in the scripture that Pastor Watley lets us know that we have to embrace is that they didn't know Jesus had come back to life until they saw Him and saw the proof. All of the disciple's fears and worries about what would happen next disappeared when they saw Jesus.

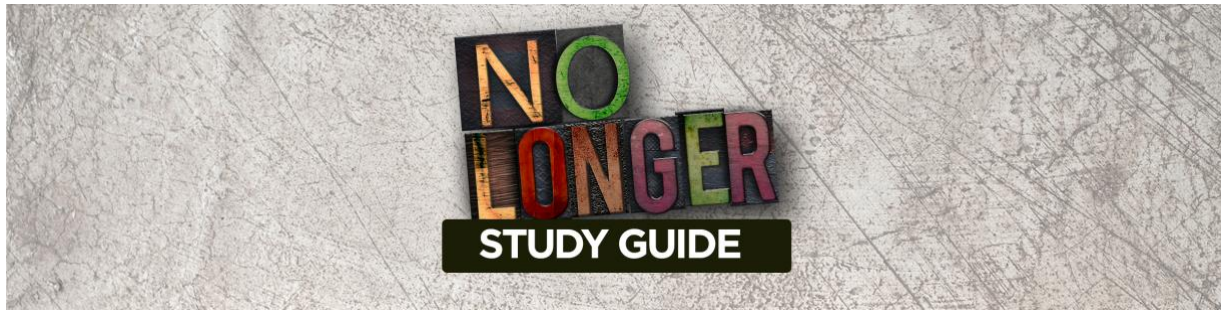
It was a salvation moment, as Pastor Watley explains. They didn't honestly know Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins until they realized the fact that Jesus had died and risen again for their sins. This is why Jesus said, “peace be with you,” because he wanted them to be at peace in Him and in the proof of what he said. Pastor also shares that Jesus' assignment, which He was to fulfill after His Resurrection, was to do three things:

1. To bless them (peace be unto you)
2. To send them (tell them their assignment to go and share about God's word and make disciples of all the world)
3. To grant them the personhood and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Watley drives home that Jesus had the purpose and focuses on making sure that the disciples and we have a clear picture of our goal. Our purpose is found in God, and it is to go and make disciples of the world.

We need to make sure that our works match up with our words of Jesus is the best thing to ever happen to me in my life. If this true and Jesus is the best thing, then we should be willing to share it and tell everyone about this Jesus. We have the real spoiler alert that Jesus has already won and that our assignment is to share it with everyone.





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**3. RESPOND**

**Introspective Questions**

- ĩ Who knows Jesus now because of you?
- ĩ Where can you share about God’s Word and God’s goodness to others?

**Discussion Questions**

- ĩ What do you think the disciples had planned to do if Jesus didn’t show up again that night?
- ĩ Why do you think Jesus came back for the disciples even though they didn’t believe Him?