

2022



VANTAGE POINT FROM RESTORATION

FROM "VANTAGE POINT" SERIES
SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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The Bible mentions 10 different times that Jesus appeared after the resurrection over a 40 day period.

- He first appeared to Mary Magdalene and she told others
- He appeared to Cleophas on the road to Emmaus
- He appeared to Peter, because he had denied him

In John 20 we see Jesus visited the disciples twice, once without Thomas.

WHY IS HE LOOKING FOR THEM? THEY HAVE SEEN

Jesus spent 20% of His time with the masses and 80% with the disciples

HE HAS POURED INTO THEM PERSONALLY

- He called them
- He fed them
- He washed them
- He used them
- He exposed them
- He challenged them
- He taught them
- Because of everything God has poured into you, the enemy sees you as a target

HE HAS INVESTED TOO MUCH IN THEM FOR A WEEK TO DESTROY THEM

John 20:19a NIV - 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

- We are not exempt from trials and tribulations
- The disciples' whole world was rocked
- But no matter what happens God is sovereign
- All things work together for...
- No matter how spiritual you all are you are going to have a reaction
- Don't allow one day of hell to allow you to forget years of miracles
- The disciples locked themselves in a room out of fear
- There is safety in being around the right people
- He's the kind of God that won't let anything stop Him from getting to you

What has God invested in you? What have you done with the investment(s)?

BRING PEACE

John 20:19 NIV - On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together,

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with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

John 20:21 NIV - Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

- He comes where there is a need
- You have a priest who feels what you feel
- God feels when you are afraid, paralyzed, and stuck and He will not leave you in that condition
- You have to operate in peace and allow your words to speak to your situation

Can you identify a time when your faith was being tested and God came into your midst to bring you peace? Are there currently any areas of your life where fear has paralyzed you?

AFTER THOMAS

John 20:26 NIV - A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

- Sometimes you can't move until everyone is in the right place
- The word peace used here is the Greek word *eirēnē* which means one, peace, quietness, or rest. It can also mean wholeness or peace of mind.
- Whatever God speaks He creates; what He speaks He releases
- The presence of God changes the temperature and atmosphere
- Peace is an instruction to bring yourself together

What areas of your life do you need peace in? What are you speaking over your current situation and over your life?

BREATHED

John 20:22 NIV - And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

- The word breathed (*emphysaō* in Greek) in this form is mentioned 3 times in the Bible
 - Genesis 2:7 breathed in man
 - Ezekiel 37:9 dry bones
 - John 20:22 breathed on the disciples
- He's about to breathe on you with force
- As God breathes on you, you have to breathe to receive

What areas do you need to be empowered by God's breath in?

CHALLENGED THEM TO BELIEVE

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John 20:27 NIV - Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

- Because God is so into you, He will come into a full room just for you
- He knows you and knows where your faith is
- He meets the need
- You cannot doubt who you are and who He is to you

John 20:28 NIV - Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

- First to call Jesus Lord
- It's personal
- You have to walk in faith

Is there any area that you are doubting God in? What do you need to feel or see in order for you to step out into your purpose?

PRAYER

Lord, I am in need of you. Breathe on me once again God so that I can be reminded of my purpose. It is your breath that allows me to move forward. Your breath empowers me. You have invested in me and I am ready to release. Breathe on me for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.