

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

## Peace Behind Locked Doors

### John 20:19–20

*On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*

The disciples were terrified. Their Lord had been crucified just days before, and they feared they might be next. So they did what frightened people do — they hid. Locked doors. Drawn curtains. Hushed voices. Fear had taken the place of faith.

But locked doors are no obstacle for the risen Christ. Jesus came and stood among them — not as a ghost, not as a memory, but bodily, physically, really present. And the first word from His risen lips was not a rebuke for their cowardice or a lecture on their lack of faith. It was peace. "Peace be with you."

This is the heart of Easter. Jesus does not come to scold. He comes to restore. He shows them His hands and His side — the very wounds that purchased their peace. His death was not a defeat. It was God's plan to redeem a world of sinners, people like you and me. And now, risen from the dead, He delivers the peace He died to win.

Whatever locked rooms you find yourself hiding in today — rooms of worry, grief, doubt, or shame — know that the risen Jesus is not kept out by your fear. He comes to you in His Word and promises, and He speaks the same peace to you that He spoke to those first trembling disciples.

### Discussion Questions

1. What "locked doors" in your life might be keeping you from experiencing the peace Christ offers?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus showed His wounds when He greeted the disciples with peace?
3. How does Jesus come to you today with His peace, even when you cannot see Him physically?

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, You came to Your frightened disciples and spoke peace into their fear. Come to us today behind whatever doors we have locked in worry or doubt. Show us Your nail-scarred hands and remind us that Your death has won our peace. Help us to trust Your presence even when we cannot see You. Amen.*

### Family Action Item

As a family, talk about something that has made you worried or afraid recently. Then read John 20:19 together and pray for Jesus to bring His peace into that situation. Place a small cross or crucifix somewhere visible in your home this week as a reminder that the risen Christ is always with you.