

**GOING DEEPER**  
April 25 & 26, 2020

**Title:** Never the Same – Week 2

**Teacher:** Sarah Stanley

**Text:** John 20:24-29

**Discussion Questions:**

Jesus appears in a locked upper room AGAIN and utters these words: “Peace be with you.” He re-enters the story of his disheartened and disillusioned followers, 11 days after His crucifixion, 8 days after His resurrection and addresses the doubts and fears amongst his disciples; specifically towards “doubting Thomas”.

**LOOK AT THE WORD**

**Peace is present. As Jesus enters the room, John writes that Jesus declares “Peace be with you”. Isaiah 9, that Sarah referenced this week, identifies Jesus: For a child is born to us, a son is given to us....And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Usually when a heavenly visitor comes in the Bible, the first words are “Do not be afraid.” What difference does it make that Jesus says, ‘Peace be with you.’ Where are other incidences in the Bible where someone leads with peace?

**Jesus, in the re-telling, addresses Thomas immediately. “Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”(v.27)**

What does it mean that Jesus addresses Thomas’ doubts immediately? What do you see in Jesus’ behaviour towards Thomas?

**“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed. (John 20:28)**

In writing, John begins his book, with his whole first chapter, pointing to Jesus as the ‘Lamb of God’ and ‘Son of God’ (1:35,41, 49). How does Thomas’ declaration, at the end of John’s book, inspire the apostles and rest of the early believers?

**LOOK INWARD**

**A locked room...and a God who showed up and said, I am present.**

Where do you need Jesus to show up today and declare, “Peace be with you”? Where are you most unsettled? What doubts are you wrestling with? What is weighing heavy? What relationships are strained, or becoming more and more distant?

*Take a moment. Become aware of your breath, your body and what God is doing. Take a moment of silence (set your timer for 30 seconds and hear Jesus’ words spoken over you... “Peace be with you”.*

**LOOK OUTWARD**

**We speak words of encouragement. We find ways to love, to serve, to be peacemakers... in our homes, to neighbours, across our city. To model the way of Jesus - the Prince of Peace.**

Who do you know needs an extra dose of peace today? Write their name down in the space below and pray: “Peace be with \_\_\_\_\_ today.” Commit to praying for them and interceding on their behalf this week.

**Our faith is formed most significantly when we have a chance to love, serve and be peace for others.** Commit to reaching out to 3 to 5 people this week and let them know that you have seen the wounds of Jesus and he is turning your doubt into determination. Ask them where they are unsettled or weighing heavy and come alongside them to turn their doubt into faith, through the Prince of Peace.

## NEVER STOP PRAYING

- *Thank God for the way He is providing for you in these challenging circumstances*
- *Pray for kids and youth who are navigating school at home; pray they can use the on-demand & online Trinity resources to encourage their families and their faith*
- *For the Karis Support Society, for safety, support and strength for staff and residents*
- *For COVID-19 issues: government, community leadership and our church leadership, grieving families, closed businesses & layoffs, an increased sense of loneliness, anxiety and stress*

NOTE: In a season of physical distancing:

***If you know of someone needing Pastoral Care in this season, please call:***

- *Pastor Gord (who is caring for our seniors as well as those in hospital/care facilities) 250-801-0480*
- *Pastor Brad (who is caring for families and those not yet seniors) 250-469-0618*