

Gospel According to John Small Group Guide:

Week 12

Beginning question: What is something that you've seen and still it was hard to believe?

*Take a moment to pray as a group and ask God for a believing and receptive heart and for God to show you himself more clearly through this study of John.

Read John 19:16-37

What Scriptures does John note are fulfilled here?

What is the significance of the testimony of the blood and water coming out of Jesus' side in vv. 34-35?

How does Jesus' intentional self-sacrifice speak to you today?

Read John 19:38-42 and John 20:1-10

What do you observe about how Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus care for the body of Jesus?

What do you think Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and the other disciple were thinking and feeling?

John 20:11-31

What clues does John give us about how Mary, the disciples, and Thomas are feeling?

What do these diverse emotions and responses reveal about who Jesus can make himself known to?

How have you been encouraged to believe Jesus more fully today and throughout John's book? Thank God for the life you have found in his name!

John 20 **Optionally end with the John 20 Prayer*

Lord God, we marvel at the empty tomb. We consider the placement of the linen cloths lying there, cloths that once covered the dead body of Your Son. We think of the other cloth that once covered a lifeless face, now folded in a place by itself. We believe. Then we consider the familiar voice of Jesus calling His friend by her own name, the voice of a risen Man who walks in the presence of angels. Yes, we believe. He is risen. He is the firstborn of many brethren. As He is, so shall we be. Though we die, there is no point in anyone clinging to our flesh, for our spirits shall ascend on high, and when the Son of Man calls us out from the grave, we shall rise again, not with mortal flesh, but with immortal bodies. We long for Your coming, O Lord! Your Father is our Father. Your God is our God, and we have peace. Father God, fill Your church with Your Holy Spirit. As You sent Your Son, not to be served, but to serve, send us forward in Your love. Use Your church to declare the forgiveness of sins. Grant us a very secure faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and in our coming resurrection. Though we have not yet seen, we do sincerely believe.