

The Essentials: The Gospel of John
Session 10: John 20:19-31

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: John 20:19-31 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Read vv. 19-21. Who initiates the conversation? Describe what happens.
2. Notice v. 19 says the disciples were hiding out of fear. How might they have felt as they encountered Jesus?
3. Our video describes vv. 22 and 23 as a kind of anointing. What are they anointed to do? What would do you imagine this task would actually look like for these disciples?
4. Read vv. 24-27 again. How would you characterize Jesus' response to Thomas's doubt? How then do you think God responds to our doubts?
5. Read. vv. 20 and 27. Why is it significant that the same body that hung on the cross is the body that Jesus still has? Why not a spiritual body? Or even a completely different body?
6. The resurrection reveals to us the future hope that every Christian has—that our bodies and everything God has made has a future. Share with your group what aspect of this world you are most delighted to know can continue.
7. Vv. 30 and 31 tell us the purpose of John's gospel. What details of the book provoke your heart and mind to greater belief?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ 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,^[d] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,^[d] was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.