

My Lord and My God!



GROWTH GUIDE APRIL 27, 2025

*2nd Sunday of Easter
Scripture: John 20:19-31*

AUTHOR

The Gospel of John was written by John, a fisherman, son of Zebedee, who along with his brother, James, became disciples of Jesus and were part of the original 12. John wrote his gospel around AD 85-90 to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

CONTEXT

John's Gospel tells us that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb after Jesus died, only to find the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran to find Peter and John to tell them Jesus' body has been taken out of the tomb. They ran to the tomb and it was as she said. John went inside, saw and believed. After they left, Mary Magdalene was standing outside the tomb, crying, when she encountered the resurrected Jesus. Later, Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them she had seen the Lord!

In our scripture passage for today, it is evening of that same day and the disciples are meeting behind locked doors, fearful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 20:19-23. Why do you think the disciples were in hiding?
2. Imagine yourself in the scripture passage. Who are you?
3. If you had been in that room and Jesus just appeared out of nowhere, what would have been your response?

4. In verse 22 Jesus recommissions his disciples and sends them out. They cannot do his work on their own. What does Jesus give them? What sustains you in your own work for our Lord?
5. Read John 20:24-31. Thomas sometimes gets a bad rap for expressing his doubts about the other disciples' claim to have seen the resurrected Jesus. Even today, he is referred to as "Doubting Thomas." But Thomas was more than his doubts. Read the following scriptures to learn more about Thomas: John 11:16, John 14:5, and Acts 1:13.
6. What must you see to believe? What have you struggled to believe?
7. Have you experienced doubt in your faith walk? There is no shame in this.
8. If you are experiencing doubt, what questions do you have for Jesus?
9. Jesus in his compassion, did not shame Thomas for not believing; instead he showed Thomas what he needed to see. What was Thomas's response?
10. What is the significance of Thomas's exclamation in verse 28? This has been called the high point of the gospel. Read the following verses: John 1:1, John 1:18, John 10:30, John 14:9, Colossians 2:9, Titus 2:13, 2 Peter 1:1, 1 John 5:20.
11. What is the blessing that Jesus mentions in verse 29?
12. We can choose to live on the surface with our faith but wrestling with our questions and doubts can lead to a deeper faith. Does this speak to you?

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