

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

THE RESURRECTION
CHANGES
EVERYTHING!

Open it

1. Share your best hiding place as a kid.

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John20:11-31.

2. What was Mary doing outside the tomb of Jesus?
3. Who did Mary think that Jesus was when He first spoke to her?
4. What does *Rabboni* mean?
5. What did Jesus want Mary to tell the disciples?
6. Why were the disciples in a room with the door locked?
7. What did Thomas say that he needed to do in order to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
8. How did Thomas respond when he realized that it was Jesus?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Where is God When it Hurts?

Read John 20:11–18.

Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene.¹ She became a follower of Jesus, traveling with Him from one town and village to another. We see that Mary Magdalene loved Jesus so much that she watched His crucifixion..² In our passage today, we see Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb of Jesus, weeping because she believed that Jesus was still dead. The word for weeping means “wailing, a loud expression of grief.”³

A number of years ago, Phillip Yancey wrote a book entitled, *Where is God when it Hurts?* When we are in our deepest pain, we may ask the question, “Is God there when I am experiencing pain?” Jesus does care about us when we are experiencing painful times and He is always there, even though we may not recognize His presence, just as Mary didn't recognize the presence of Jesus when she was grieving. When she saw Jesus, we learn from Matthew's account that Mary Magdalene threw herself down, clasping the feet of Jesus.⁴ She wanted to hold onto Jesus as if to never let Him go, but Jesus commanded her not to hold on to Him because only after Jesus ascended into heaven and Mary is in glory, would she be able to maintain intimate contact with Jesus forever.⁵ Yes, Jesus promises to always be with us⁶, but we don't always recognize His presence. I have a saying I wrote in the front pages of my first study Bible that says, “When you can't see God's hand, trust His heart.” There is a day coming that the dwelling of God will be with believers, and we will live intimately in His presence.⁷

9. What has been the most painful experience you have gone through? Did you experience God's presence in any way during that time?

10. Why do you think that we may not experience God's presence in painful times? What verses would be helpful during painful times?

11. Why do Christians enjoy being in the presence of God and long to be in His presence? Do you long for God's presence? Why or why not?

¹ Luke 8:1–2

² John 19:25

³ NIV Study Bible footnote for John 20:11

⁴ Matthew 28:9

⁵ Constable, Thomas, John 20:17 commentary - <https://www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/john/john.htm>

⁶ Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5

⁷ Revelation 21:3

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Empowered: Exchanging Fear for Courage

Read John 20:19–23.

Have you ever been afraid? I remember being around 12 years old when my parents left me home alone one evening. Our basement had sliding doors that gave access to the backyard. It was getting dark, and I thought I heard noises in our basement, so I thought someone had broken in. I ran up to my room and grabbed my toy cork ball shooting shotgun and laid down at the top of my basement stairs ready to shoot a harmless cork ball at anything that tried coming up the stairs. Of course, no one came up the stairs because no one was there. The disciples were hiding in a locked room in fear of the Jews who had just crucified their Rabbi, Jesus. They thought that they were next on the list for the Jews to hunt down and kill because they were known followers of Jesus. Jesus showed up and the disciples' fear changed to joy. Jesus changed their fear to courage by breathing on them and giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit to go and tell others the good news that forgiveness can be found through believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The disciples' receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit at this time was only a temporary empowerment to start fulfilling Jesus' mission. It wasn't until 50 days later at Pentecost that the disciples, as well as all believers, would receive the permanent indwelling Holy Spirit, and that includes you and me!⁸

12. Share a time when you were afraid.

13. Why does the gift of the Holy Spirit living inside of you give you reason to not be afraid?

14. Read Romans 8:1–27. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life as a believer in Jesus?

⁸ Acts 2

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Doubts

Read John 20:24–29.

Have you ever had doubts if Jesus is the real deal? How do you know that Jesus' exclusive claim to be the only way to the Father⁹ is true? You are in good company if you have/had doubts about Jesus. Thomas wasn't present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. Thomas said that he had to see the nail marks in Jesus' hands and put his finger where the nails were and his hand in Jesus' side. A week later, Jesus appears among the disciples and tells Thomas to put his fingers into Jesus' hands and side and to stop doubting and believe.

So how do you know that Jesus is the real deal and what separates Him from every other religious figure? The answer is Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The dramatic life change of the disciples proves the resurrection because they were hiding in fear and suddenly had courage to bear witness to the resurrected Jesus. The testimony of Thomas after seeing and placing his fingers in the nail holes of Jesus' hands as well as in his side proves the resurrection. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared on the earth for over 40 days, giving many convincing proofs that He was alive,¹⁰ and He appeared to over 500 brothers at the same time.¹¹ If you have doubts about Jesus, don't just take my word for it, but take some time to honestly research the facts yourself.

15. Have you ever doubted that Jesus is the real deal? If so, when was that, and if you are a believer today, what convinced you to believe in Jesus?

16. If a friend asked you to prove the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, what would you say?

17. Do you have any other doubts or questions about Jesus/Christianity?

⁹ John 14:6

¹⁰ Acts 1:3

¹¹ I Corinthians 15:5–6

Day 5 — Today's Theme: Believe!

Read John 20:30–31.

I have heard people say that all that matters is that you have faith (belief) and that it doesn't matter what you believe, just so long as you believe in something. But what if you believe in the wrong thing? You can be led astray, and the consequences can be eternally tragic. "Believe" is a key word in the gospel of John, and one that you must understand. Believe means "to consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one's trust."¹² This definition of belief can be demonstrated when you sit down in a chair and put your full weight on it, trusting that the chair will hold all your weight. And it's not just having belief that saves you, but what is important is the object of your belief. In James 2, we see that James is rebuking the person who has a faith without deeds that shows a transformed life. James 2:19 says, "*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder*" (NIV). God uses the exact same Greek word for belief for the demons' belief that he uses in John 20:30–31. In these verses, John tells us if we believe, we will have life in His name, and yes, this is also the exact same Greek word for belief that we find in John 3:16. So what is the difference between the belief of demons who won't be saved and our belief that brings us salvation? First of all, Jesus came into the world as a human to die for sinful humans, not sinful demons. Second, the difference is the object of belief. The demons' object of their belief is that they believe that there is one God! That is good and correct. They know and believe that God is real and true. But believing alone in the existence of God doesn't save you. If you look carefully in our passage at what we are to believe in that gives us life, it's believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God is to correctly believe that Jesus is fully God and fully man, coming to the earth to live a perfect life, and then paying for our sins through His death on the cross and rising three days later from the dead.

18. Everyone places their belief in something. What are some things people place their belief in?

19. How can you know for sure that you have the correct belief (saving faith)? Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die one day?

Note: This study was written by Pastor Mario Arindaeng. www.villagebible.church/students.

¹² https://www.preceptaustin.org/1thessalonians_213#believe