

### **Group Bible Study/Discussion:**

1. Read John 20:19-31. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. Why are the disciples fearful of the Jewish religious leadership? What do you think might have contributed to the disciples' fear when they gathered? What is the point of Jesus' 3-fold "Peace be with you"?
3. What is the first step Christ took to transform their fear into courage? What else did Jesus do to facilitate that transformation from fear, to courage, to mission?
4. Read Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:14-18 & John 16:33. What different aspects are included in the 'peace' Jesus promises?
5. Why do you think the disciples still did not understand even after seeing the empty tomb themselves & hearing Mary describe her encounter with the risen Jesus?
6. How does this passage treat the relationship between doubt & faith? How are doubt & faith at work in your life? What do you need from Jesus to help you continue to believe?
7. To this point in the gospel of John, there has been a great emphasis on "seeing & believing." How does v. 29-31 signal a significant shift in how we are to relate to Jesus? What is faith in Jesus based on now, rather than "seeing" personally? How are we, as his followers, to engage others in that way?
8. Read Hebrews 11:1. Do you think it is an advantage or a disadvantage to live today – when we cannot personally witness Jesus' resurrection? Why?
9. The Gospel of John contains nearly 100 references to "believing" in Christ. What is important about the way John closes this section?
10. What does this text call you to do?

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025*

*COME TO JESUS*

### **SONGS:**

*Hosanna (Hillsong)*

### **WELCOME & PRAYER:**

*GROW IN HIS GRACE*

### **BIBLE READING:**

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> That evening, of the first day of the week, the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>20</sup> As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands & his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! <sup>21</sup> Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them & said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, & place my hand into the wound in his side."

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he 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!"

<sup>28</sup> "My Lord & my God!" Thomas exclaimed. <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

<sup>30</sup> The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, & that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

### **CHILDREN'S TIME:**

### **SONG:**

*Night Song*

## **FAITH CHAT:**

1. Why do you believe in Jesus as Lord & Saviour?  
(Jn 20:30-31 & 1 Pet 3:15)
2. What "mark" has Jesus left in your life?

**THE MESSAGE:**      *IDENTITY CHECK: SHOW ME YOUR FAITH*

**OFFERING SONG:**      *Jesus Strong and Kind*

## **PRAYERS:**

**A CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH:**      *COLOSSIANS 1:15-20*

<sup>15</sup> **Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.**

**He existed before anything was created & is supreme over all creation,**

<sup>16</sup> **for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms & on earth.**

**He made the things we can see & the things we can't see —**

**such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, & authorities in the unseen world.**

**Everything was created through him & for him.**

<sup>17</sup> **He existed before anything else, & he holds all creation together.**

<sup>18</sup> **Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.**

**He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead.**

**So he is first in everything.**

<sup>19</sup> **For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,**

<sup>20</sup> **and through him God reconciled everything to himself.**

**He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth**

**by means of Christ's blood on the cross.**

## **THE COMMUNION:**

*Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship Video during Communion: HIS MERCY IS MORE (GETTY MUSIC/BOSWELL & PAPA)*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

## **THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God,**

**You are marked by the cross of Jesus Cross! -- Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:**      *Grace*

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

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