

Experiencing Easter

April 12, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



Questions:

1. During this time of isolation, who is a friend or relative that you would especially like to see and visit with right now?
2. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). Discuss what stood out to you. Do you have any questions to bring up?
3. **Don't Be Afraid.** Read John 20:19-22
 - a) What were Jesus' disciples doing in this story?
 - b) What were they afraid of? Try to put yourself in their shoes (sandals!). What do you imagine that they were thinking and feeling?
 - c) Because of COVID-19, we are also spending a lot of time behind locked doors. How are you handling that?
 - d) What was the first thing Jesus said when he appeared to them? Why do you think that was?
 - e) Why do you think he showed them the marks of crucifixion on his body?
 - f) What was their response to seeing Jesus?
 - g) Why do you think Jesus told them a second time, "Peace be with you"?
 - h) Why do you think Jesus breathed on them? What did that represent?
 - i) Would you like Jesus to show up in your life right now and fill you with his Spirit? If so, pause and take some time to ask him to.
4. **Come and See.** Now continue the story by reading John 20:24-31
 - a) Why do you think Thomas doubted the resurrection even though everyone around him were already eyewitnesses of it?
 - b) Where would you put yourself on the spectrum between gullible and skeptical? How do you think God wants us to be?
 - c) Why do you think the disciples were behind locked doors again?
 - d) Why do you think Jesus tells them a third time, "Peace be with you"?
 - e) What did Jesus do for Thomas?
 - f) What did Jesus tell Thomas about doubt?
 - g) Who did Thomas acknowledge Jesus to be?
 - h) Do you think Thomas felt chastised by Jesus? Why or why not?
 - i) The word "blessed" in the Bible means "happy". Why do you think those who have more faith experience more happiness?
 - j) Here, the Apostle John explains why he wrote his gospel. What was his ultimate purpose?
5. **Go and Tell.** Reread John 20:21
 - a) How had the Father sent Jesus?
 - b) What does this tell us about how God is sending us?
 - c) What do you think God is sending you to do?
 - d) How might Jesus' words, "Peace be with you" help you in this calling?
6. Now spend some time praying for each other. Ask God for peace and pray that many people in the world would "come and see" that he is the risen Lord. Ask for boldness to "go and tell".