

NEXT STEPS

Series "Indeed"

Message title: "Peace be with you" 4/12/26

Next Steps are designed to be used in your small group settings. Need a group? Let us help!

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though 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; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:19-31 NIV

Last week was Easter Sunday. Guess what?!?!? He is still risen! The Resurrection changes everything. Is that a true statement in your life? Share your thoughts with your small group. Don't have a group? We should talk soon.

The disciples were in a scary place. They did not have the answers to their situation. They were gathered together behind a locked door. In last week's message we pondered what Jesus would be doing if he were walking around now. Read John 20:19-31 (printed above). What is he doing in this situation? How does "standing among them" bring peace into their situation? How does him standing with you bring peace?

We are called to put aside our fears and walk forward with Jesus in faith. A victorious life is probably the biggest indications of a transformed and committed life. How has Jesus brought peace into your storms? How did he bring you power? How does he change your relationship with God? Others? Yourself? Remember, peace means that past sin does not become less painful. It does cease to be paralyzing.

What situation are you in RIGHT NOW that has you locked down or locked up? What has you living in fear? Visualize looking up and seeing Jesus standing there inviting you to take a look. Inviting you to reach out and take his hand. Inviting you to receive the peace he provides. Will you be bold enough to meet him at the altar and let him do that work today? Who deserves to join you on this journey? When will you ask? Remember, we have gathered in worship; now it is time to go and be the church.

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