



Unit .27

Session .03

Jesus Prepares His Disciples

Scripture



John 20:19-29

19 When it was evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” **20** Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” **22** After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” **24** But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were telling

him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.” **26** A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even 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 and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.” **28** Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

How does the peace of God guard our hearts against fear and anxiety? When have you experienced God's peace even though you were facing the troubles of the world?



How does Jesus' victory over sin and death and His promise of peace encourage you as you live on mission?

99 Essential Doctrines

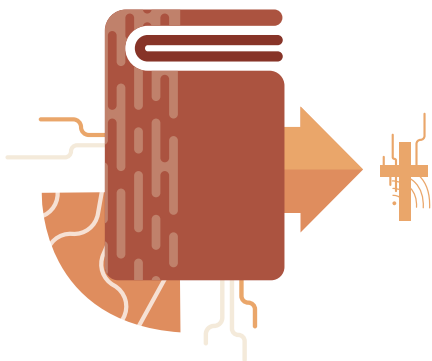
Evangelism

It is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all thus rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

Main Point

**Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world,
Jesus also sends us to be on mission.**

Why is it important to remember that, as Christ's ambassadors, we are on a mission of offering peace?



Christ Connection

As God the Father sent His Son, God the Son sends His people to the world to call on sinners to place faith in Christ. As Christians, we are a sent people who are being formed in the image of our sending God and our suffering Savior.

What are some steps a believer can take in order to live as a disciple who is sent on God’s mission by Jesus?

In Defense



“Thomas’s confession of Jesus as his Lord (Greek, Kyrios) and God (Greek, Theos) provides a literary link with the references to Jesus as God in the prologue (1:1, 18). This is one of the strongest texts in the NT on the deity of Christ (see 1:1). Some cults try to explain away this clear affirmation of Jesus’ deity by arguing that Thomas’s statement was merely an exclamation of astonishment that, in effect, took God’s name in vain. Such an explanation is unthinkable, however, given the strong Jewish moral convictions of the day and because it is not consistent with the text, which explicitly says that Thomas said these words to him, that is, to Jesus. Thomas’s statement is in fact a clear confession of his newly found faith in Jesus as his Lord and God. John’s entire purpose in writing this book is that all readers come to confess Jesus as their Lord and God in the same way that Thomas did.”—Andreas J. Köstenberger, “John,” *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), 2071.



Head

Why do you think having doubts or asking questions can be a common experience, even for Christians?

How does Jesus' response to Thomas both challenge and comfort those who doubt?



Heart

Share about a specific time when you felt overwhelmed with the peace of Christ.

How does knowing God's peace strengthen your faith in Him?

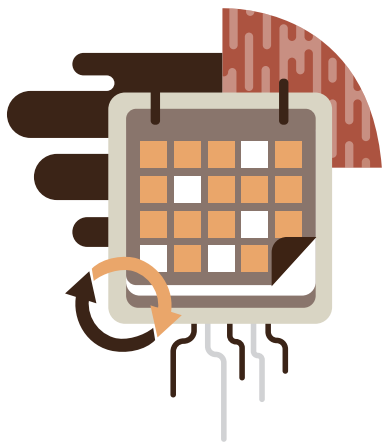


Hands

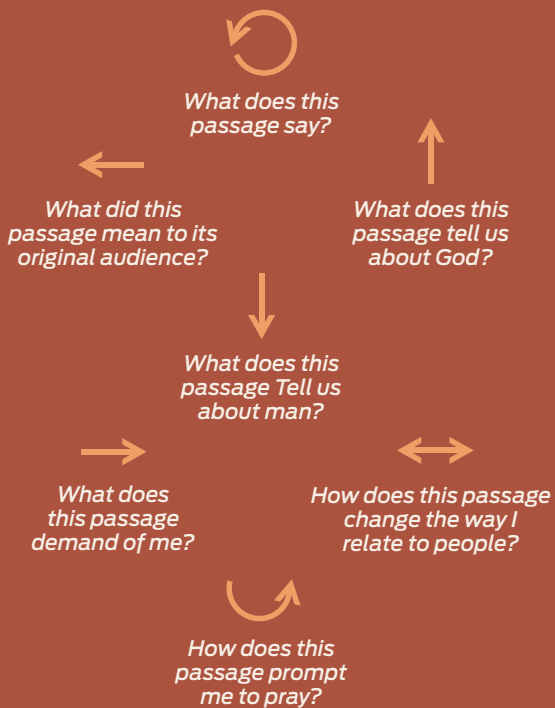
Why do you think some Christians don't see themselves as being ambassadors for Christ in this world?

What are some common distractions in life that may cause us to neglect our mission? How can we overcome these distractions?

Daily Devotions



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day 1

John 20:19-20

One look at the risen Savior and the disposition of the disciples changed immediately.

Knowing the truth of the resurrection and trusting Jesus to fulfill all of His promises results in peace and joy. These characteristics should be the marks of a Christian who fully understands the depths from which they have been saved and the victory that is sure in Jesus!

Christ is our peace and has secured our eternity (Eph. 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:3-5). There is nothing for us to fear because we trust that He is in control and powerful over all things. He is our joy because He is also our goal, as we fix our eyes on Him and enjoy a relationship with Him today that will be perfected in eternity. Death loses its sting and frustrations lose their pain in light of what He has promised for those who love Him.

We don't have to live as the world does with cynicism, chaotic busyness, negativity, and complaints. We can enjoy every breath God gives us with joy and rest in peace because Jesus is Savior and Lord, reigning over all and interceding on our behalf. We know that a day is coming when we will be with Him in the fullness of His kingdom.

What does your attitude reveal about your beliefs?

John 20:21-23

Jesus was sent by the Father to reveal His plan to reconcile people to Himself. Jesus humbled Himself and willingly died on a cross to pay the penalty we deserved for our sin. Yet, as He was sent, so are we.

We are sent as lights into a dark world to announce God's plan of reconciliation, the good news of Jesus! This doesn't mean that every person should prepare for international missions as soon as they become a Christian, but it does mean that every Christian is called to be a missionary in the context of their daily lives. Thankfully, this isn't an instruction we complete on our own. It is through the Holy Spirit's power that we may offer the good news of salvation through Jesus. Every believer is to live a "sent" life, proclaiming Jesus as Savior and forgiveness of sin offered through Him.

Are you living "sent"—intentionally seeking opportunities to share the gospel? Why or why not?

John 20:24-29

Jesus didn't shun Thomas for his unbelief. Instead, He invited him to touch the wounds in His hands and side as proof of His resurrection. Thomas saw and had faith. Although we don't get to see and touch the wounds of Jesus as testimony to His resurrection, we don't trust blindly. Our faith is seeing faith through the eyes of those who saw the risen Savior like Thomas. He proclaimed the truth of the gospel message in his response, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus was indeed who He said He was: He was the Son of God who would die for sin and rise again, defeating it forever. This is the substance of our faith. We may not see with our eyes, but we live as those who trust in faith the same truths Thomas realized. Jesus is risen!

How does the historical reality of Jesus' resurrection affect your everyday faith?

John 20:30-31

Don't you wish we had record of every sign and every statement of Jesus? Yet, as John 21:25 says, "If every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written."

The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) reveal to us the truth about Jesus: His life, death, resurrection, and ascension and are sufficient to reveal that He is the Son of God and is to be trusted as Savior and Lord. John revealed why he chose to include what he did in verse 31. Believing the good news brings life in His name!

This was John's goal in writing and also should be our goal in living. May every moment of our lives point others to the One who can save and redeem.

What steps can you take to make your life more oriented to show others the truth about Jesus?

John 21:1-23

Jesus revealed Himself to hundreds of people during the forty days between His resurrection and His ascension (1 Cor. 15:6), but one of the most moving moments is when Jesus restores Peter. Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times after He was arrested (Luke 22:54-62), a fact that surely brought shame on Peter. His name means "rock," but he was far from immovable in this account.

Yet, three times Jesus asked Peter if He loves Him. Jesus expressed to Peter that the way he could show his love was to feed Jesus' sheep. Of course, Jesus didn't have a flock of fluffy sheep to care for, but a growing group of followers who would need a shepherd.

Peter would need to be a wise shepherd. This is also a way we proclaim our love for Jesus today.

What does it look like practically for us to feed Jesus' sheep?