

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

FAMILY DEVOTION

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." Jesus Appears to Thomas 24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), 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.”

John 20:19-29

Peace be with you.

Peace is a stillness and hope that we have that keeps us calm and not afraid. In this story, the phrase "Peace be with you" is spoken by Jesus as a greeting multiple times. Every time he appears to his disciples he says it. Where else have we heard this phrase? Maybe your pastor says it in church or your church family says it when we go around and shake each others hand. We use this greeting as a reminder that we have been gifted the holy spirit and with that, comes peace. Not just any peace, a peace that passes understanding.

As the father has sent me, I am sending you.

Take some time to discuss some of the things Jesus did while he was on Earth

Jesus said "as the father has sent me, I am sending you." This means that we are called to serve as Jesus served on Earth. We are invited to love one another, forgive one another, eat with one another, and share the gospel with one another. We do all these things knowing that though we will never be perfect as Jesus. We do these things out of love for God and each other.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.

It is really hard to believe something you have never seen. The disciples would agree, especially Thomas. When the other disciples told him they had seen Jesus after his death, he didn't believe them. He insisted that he must be able to touch his wounds before believing that Jesus was alive. Jesus replied with "stop doubting and believe" saying "blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." A belief in Jesus is a belief of faith. Faith in God is knowing that he is always with us even though we can not see him.

**DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
PEACE. HELP US TO HAVE FAITH IN
YOU AND TO LOVE OTHERS.**

AMEN.