

THE

RESURRECTION

story

LIFE
GROUPS

WEEK 4 • APR 12

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What is it like to find out that something that you didn't ever believe could happen did happen?

BACKGROUND

The day of Jesus's resurrection caused a cosmic shift in the history of planet earth and in the lives of Jesus' closest followers. John 20 describes the astonishing evidence that compelled the disciples to believe what seemed completely impossible to them. But Jesus personally pursues His loved ones and offers to them the greatest proof of His resurrection: Himself. These personal encounters are given to us as examples of how the Lord inspires faith in all his children. John invites us to believe that Jesus is the Christ based on the eyewitness testimonies of those who experienced the Risen Christ.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: John 20:27-28

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 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." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

READ: John 20:24-31



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. Scan John chapter 20. What role does evidence play in the development of the faith of the disciples?
2. What role does Jesus himself play in overcoming Thomas' lack of belief? Everyone else's?
3. What compels Thomas to declare that Jesus is his Lord and his God?



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. What emotions may have blocked Thomas from gathering with his fellow disciples? From believing their report of Jesus' appearance to them?
2. What blessing is there for those who believe without evidence?
3. Jesus pronounces peace and blessing upon his gathered disciples. When we are discouraged, disoriented or dismayed, why is it tempting to stay away from the people of God?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

Read Hebrews 11:1-6.

- What qualities of the life of faith does this passage describe?
- How did the ancients develop the certainty of faith? How do we?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. In what ways has Jesus pursued you and inspired you to believe?
2. How have the testimonies of others encouraged you to believe?
3. Jesus was very patient and thorough with Thomas. How does this invite us to be patient with those who struggle to believe?



MEMORY VERSE: John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)