

DISCUSSION GUIDE || April 12–17, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

- **GUYS NIGHT** is Friday, April 24th at the church at 7pm. Pizza provided, bring drinks and snacks!

REMEMBER

- Mary goes to the tomb expecting to see a body and a heavy stone on Sunday morning (but God shakes up her expectations). Peter and John run to see if what Mary said was true (and John sees enough to let the light that fills the empty room fill his heart).
- **But now, on that Sunday evening**, the disciples are in a locked room afraid of the Jewish leaders.
- Yet Jesus shows up and turns their fear into joy. **Jesus says “Peace.”** Then **Jesus shows his wounds.** And, in spite of their denial, desertion, and doubt, **Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit** upon them—equipping them to tell others that he is alive and to announce the availability of forgiveness.

READ John 20:19-23

1. **What word or phrase stands out to you the most from the story of the first Easter evening?**
2. **Why do you think the disciples remain in a “locked room” (literally and figuratively) even though reports of Jesus’ resurrection have been circulating? Can you make any parallels to disciples in the church today?**
3. Jesus (in a risen body that defies physical boundaries) appears in their midst and shares a common greeting (“Peace be with you!”) that surely felt anything but ordinary! **What do you think Jesus is communicating to this room of disciples? Why is this so significant?**
4. Peace and a sense of God’s presence can sometimes feel elusive for people. **What does it mean to experience the peace of God in our world today or in your everyday life? If someone came to you with a desire to experience God’s peace in a difficult season, how might you encourage them?**
5. **What’s significant about the fact that Jesus a) still has these wounds and b) shows them?**
6. The Father sent the Son **into** the world, **in** the power of the Holy Spirit, **with** authority. Jesus says “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you (John 20:21). **What does that kind of “sending” look like for the disciples then and now? How is v. 23 connected to this task?**
7. Scholars give various theories to harmonize the reception of the Holy Spirit in John 20 with the dramatic scene 50 days later at Pentecost in Luke 2. On Saturday, we talked about how these two scenes serve different functions in equipping the disciples with the Holy Spirit for the tasks ahead. **What do you think’s going on? How are these Holy Spirit events similar and different?**
8. **What do we need to pause and pray for right now?**