

# Sunday Morning Bible Study (Live, Online @ 11:15 AM)

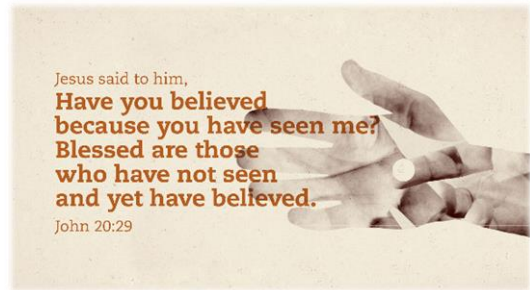
John 20:9-31

Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71864180601?pwd=dXFrTTQveUJPZ0JWU2F4Mm5DSE5Cdz09>

## Introduction

John wants us to know that the resurrection was as astounding to the original followers of Jesus as it is to us. But he also wants us to be sure that it actually occurred. Not only did Jesus rise from the dead but He appeared to various people on more than one occasion. The resurrection is pivotal to the Christian proclamation. Paul put it as concisely as anyone could want it: "If Christ is not raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, then we are found to be false witnesses about our God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. ...But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ...Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:14-15, 20, 57). His enemies thought they had put an end to Jesus. The cross was just the beginning.



1. How do you interpret John 20:9?
2. When Mary realized the person she was talking to was not the gardener, but Jesus, what did she do (20:17)?
3. Jesus uses the term "brothers" for his disciples here, why is this so comforting?
4. Mary was suffering from a common human trouble: Mary was grieving. How did she feel? Have you ever felt grief like that? How did Jesus deal with Mary's grief? How does this encounter give you hope in grief?
5. Why does John record "Peace be with you" three times (v. 19,21,26)? How does this relate to their fears?
6. Jesus' actions in 20:21-23 have been referred to as the institution of the Christian church. According to 20:21, what does Jesus commission His church to do? (See also Jn 17:18; Mt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)

7. Can you recall any times in the Old Testament when God breathed and something special happened? (Genesis 2:7, Ezekiel 37) What special gift is the Holy Spirit giving here?
8. What great privilege and authority did Jesus give to His disciples (20:23)?
9. Try to put yourself in Jesus' position. What do you think you might have said to Thomas?
10. Thomas got to actually see Jesus' in the midst of his doubts? Why doesn't God do that for us? Are we at a disadvantage? (Consider the words of Jesus in 20:29 and Jn 17:20)
11. This is the height of John's gospel. What was his ultimate purpose in writing the gospel all along?
12. Thomas was dealing with a common human trouble: He doubted. How are disappointment, depression, and doubt often connected? When have you doubted and felt far from God? How did Jesus deal with Thomas' doubt? How does the message of Good Friday and Easter give you confidence in the face of doubts?