

CONNECT WITH SCRIPTURE (Read the passages and review the sermon outline. Then select the best questions or customize the questions for your group)

- Read John 20:19–31 .
- Read the main points from the sermon outline.
- How much fear do you believe the disciples felt from the Jewish leaders?
- Why would Jesus lead by saying Peace be with you multiple times?
- Why is it significant that Jesus still has the wounds in his hands and side?
- What connection could there be between receiving the Holy Spirit and forgiving each other?
- What can we learn today from Thomas' short-lived doubt?
- John's gospel is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah. How does this passage exemplify his messiahship?

CONNECT WITH GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD (select one question for discussion)

- How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- If a friend, neighbor, co-worker asked why you believe in Jesus how would you respond?
- How can you be an agent of peace in the world?
- Who do you need to forgive that requires the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What might your small group be missing by having a locked door to the outside world?

PRAYER

End your time in prayer for each other. Try praying to the Holy Spirit specifically this week.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

April 24, 2022

Empowering the Church Promise

Pastor Mike McClenahan



John 20:19–31 (NIV)

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."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), 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."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(Message Outline continued on the next page)

MESSAGE OUTLINE CONTINUED

The Holy Spirit is

1. Peace.

"Peace be with you!" "Peace be with you." "Peace be with you."

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. **John 14:27 (NIV)**

2. Purpose.

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

3. Presence.

Jesus came and stood among them... "Receive the Holy Spirit"

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." **John 14:15-18**

4. Pointing to Jesus.

That you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah... that by believing you may have life in his name.

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." **John 14:25-26**

- Ask questions. **I will.** *"Unless I see."*
- Receive Jesus. **I believe.** *"Stop doubting and believe."*
- Return back. **I'm home.** *"My Lord and my God."*
- Take next step. **I'm ready.** *"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS—April 24, 2022

Mosaic: Empowering the Church—Promise

CONNECT WITH GOD (choose one of these practices that best suits your group or use a practice from a previous week)

Silence: Explain that you are going to be silent as a way of inviting the Lord into your time together. Read the following quote by Richard Foster and begin your silent time of connection with the Lord. Silence is one of the deepest disciplines of the Spirit simply because it puts the stopper on all self-justification. One of the fruits of silence is the freedom to let God be our justifier. We don't need to straighten others out.

Slowing: Read: "If you can't take time to do nothing, you are a slave to doing. Doing nothing is a radical, revolutionary act. It frees you from the universal slavery of our age: slavery to the clock. The clock measures doing but not being" —**Peter Kreeft**

Explain: During these next 3-5 minutes write down all of the tasks that are occupying your mind and keeping you from simply being in the presence of the God who loves you. When you have written down the things you are hurrying from, simply sit focusing on Jesus.

Spirit of the Living God: Slowly read the lyrics to this hymn by Daniel Iverson. If someone would like to sing it, even better. Allow for a time of silence to focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

Journaling: In our passage this week, the disciples were surprised by Jesus. Spend several minutes journaling about a time in your life when you were surprised by God. What were you thinking, feeling, doing, and what was the result of God's action? Then share your stories with each other using one or more of the questions below.

- How often does God surprise you?
- What did you learn about God's character when he surprised you?
- Are there any common locations or situations where God surprises your group?

(continued on the back panel)