



# Sermon Growth Guide

**April 11, 2021**

**To Give His Life - Life Defeats Death**

**John 20:19-29**

**Key Verse:** John 20:20 “After (Jesus) said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.”

**Big Idea:** Jesus’ resurrection moves our hearts from fear to joy, giving us peace with God, hope for tomorrow and meaning for today..

## Foundations

What would your life look like if fear were the only word? Our Scripture this week begins with an awful picture: Jesus’ closest friends have locked themselves away in total fear that they will be killed next, and maybe even crucified. This is anti-life. It’s as if the disciples have already died. What is life if your whole existence is hiding in a room afraid to come out? Yet, metaphorically, so many of us either have been in a room like that or currently are in a room like that.

Enter Jesus. God is not dead, He’s alive! Fear flees and joy overwhelms our hearts. O, my heart, sing for joy to the Lord! And now, with our heart swelling to bursting with joy, we come to find out that God’s resurrection in Christ gives us peace, hope and meaning.

In Christ we have peace with God, one another, and with ourselves. In Christ, we have the hope of heaven that we too will be with the Lord forevermore. And in Christ, our each and every today explodes with meaning as we are called and empowered to join God in His mission of redemption to the ends of the earth (John 20:21-22).

Together with your circle, pray that God will use this time together to further heal you and equip you for the joyous mission to walk as the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

## Understanding God’s Word

Before Jesus came and stood among them, what was the emotional, physical and spiritual state of the disciples in verse 19?

What does Jesus say three times throughout our passage this week? (verses 19, 21 and 26)

What commissioning takes place in verses 21 and 22?

## Applying God’s Word

This week we ask our hearts to further understand that Jesus’ resurrection moves our hearts from fear to joy, giving us peace with God, hope for tomorrow and meaning for today. How much does the resurrection of Jesus affect your day-to-day decision making? Do you feel the joy, peace, hope and meaning that Christ gives you through His life?

## Witnessing God’s Word

How does the knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus shape your witness? How might your interactions change or your view of the importance of building trusting relationships with yet-believers deepen if Christ’s resurrection became even more of central importance to you?