Believe!
The Gospel of John
PART SIX —— JOHN 17:1-21:25

This Changes Everything

Harvest Pastors | John 20:1–31

For a brief recap, the sermon's title was: **This Changes Everything**
Main Points were: 1. From sorrow to joy;
2. From fear to peace; 3. From doubt to belief

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion, or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Icebreaker

What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

Understanding the Text in Context

Read John 20:1–31 together. Remember that this passage takes place after Jesus' crucifixion and burial. The disciples believe their hopes have been shattered, and Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb grieving. But everything changes when they encounter the risen Jesus.

As you read, pay attention to the three major transformations in this chapter:

Mary Magdalene moves from sorrow to joy (John 20:1–18).

- Why do you think Mary Magdalene initially assumes someone has taken Jesus' body rather than considering that He has risen? What does this reveal about how grief can affect our understanding?

The disciples move from fear to peace (John 20:19–23).

- The disciples are hiding behind locked doors because they are afraid. Why do you think they

were still afraid even after hearing Mary's report that Jesus was alive? What does Jesus' presence teach us about where true peace comes from?

Thomas moves from doubt to belief (John 20:24–31).

- When Thomas declares, "My Lord and my God," what does his response reveal about his understanding of who Jesus truly is? How is this more than simply believing that Jesus came back to life?

Read John 20:30–31.

Why does John specifically tell us the purpose for writing his Gospel? According to these verses, what does it mean to believe in Jesus and receive life in His name?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

This week's sermon emphasizes that Christ's resurrection guarantees the future resurrection of believers. How does Jesus' victory over death secure eternal life for those He has redeemed?

Why is Jesus' resurrection essential to the Gospel, rather than simply an extraordinary miracle following His death?

What is the difference between believing that Jesus historically died and rose again and personally trusting in His death and resurrection for salvation?

Living Out the Truth

Mary Magdalene was in mourning when she went to the tomb. After encountering her risen savior, her mourning turned to joy. When have you experienced a season of mourning in your life that later turned into a season of joy? If you are in a season of mourning right now, how have you felt His presence amidst the pain of this season?

Sometimes, we may forget that, as Christians, we have been given the Holy Spirit to dwell within us as our guide in this world. How has the Holy Spirit equipped you as you go out on mission for Jesus?

Have you ever had questions about Jesus like Thomas? Think back on those times. Even through the questioning, have you professed in your soul that Jesus is "your Lord and your God" (John 20:28)?

Do you face uncertainty and trials in your life with the "peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). If not, what steps can you take to strengthen your faith during times of uncertainty?

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

When someone in our family is sad, disappointed, or hurting, how can we remind one another of the hope we have because Jesus is alive?

How should the reality of Jesus' resurrection shape the way we parent our children, especially as we help them navigate sorrow, fear, and doubt?

Further Study

Listen to this portion of the Gospel of John at the Symphony of Scripture.

In your John Study Journals, look ahead to next week's sermon and text for John 21:1–19: "Pause on Peter," "With God, All Things Are Possible," and "Tend to My Sheep."