



FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date: 4/7/2024

Series: Easter Series-Totality

Text: John 20:19-31

BIG IDEA: The Path Of True Totality Is Only Found In Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: Are you sunrise, daylight, twilight, or nighttime? Why?

CONTEXT: This scripture passage takes place behind closed, locked doors with the disciples in those sullen and uncertain first days after the glorious Resurrection. The passage tells two stories of how the disciples encounter the risen and glorified Christ – first, with all the disciples gathered with the exception of Thomas, and then with Thomas arriving later to experience Jesus anew.

PASSAGE: Have volunteers read John 20:19-31.

DISCUSSION:

1. Do you find it compelling that Jesus chose to “appear” with the disciples rather than conventionally coming to them? Why do you suppose He did this?
2. What happens in our lives when we “receive the Holy Spirit”?
3. Why does it seem like Thomas doesn’t want to take the word of the other disciples regarding Jesus’ appearance? How do you think you would have reacted to this news?
4. Jesus waited for a week before He came to Thomas and revealed Himself. What do you suppose was going on in Thomas’ heart and mind during this waiting period?
5. Read John 11:1-16 (focus on verses 8 and 16). Is it fair to label Thomas as “doubting Thomas” after reading this passage?
6. What is the difference between faith and believing? Do they mean the same thing? Why or why not?

APPLICATION:

7. Have you ever needed God to reveal something to you before you could move forward? Describe this situation.
8. In what ways does God continue to “appear” before us? How can we know that He is still here and engaged in our lives?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Many in our world are seeking to prepare for what is coming next in life. Graduation? A different job? Maybe a new place to live? A baby on the way? Retirement? Our greatest preparation in this life is to have the peace of mind in knowing where we will spend eternity. Total peace, joy, and fulfillment come through knowing that Christ has secured your salvation by His gracious, loving, and sacrificial work on the Cross. Are you having Gospel conversations with the people that live around you? Do you think that this is urgent? Have you begun talking with your friends or loved ones about the One that matters most to you? Help others be prepared for eternity, because we never know when they will be called away.

CARE AND PRAY:

- Ask God to help you to have greater faith in Him and trust in His Word.
- Pray that God will help you to be bold, sensitive, and to know the right time to engage in Gospel conversations. Remember, we don't have forever.
- Pray for our church leaders as they are seeking God's will and direction for the future.