



Northland Christian Church

Group Discussion Guide For the Week of September 4, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & patient, humble support.

Connect

- When was the last time you were surprised by something that was completely unexpected?
- When has improving your sight or understanding helped solve a challenge in life?

Context

In John chapter 20, we get to the hope-infused (yet still challenging to the human mind) description of John's biographical account of the Resurrection of Jesus. His beautiful book which was written to strengthen and equip us all to believe in the Resurrected Savior - Jesus: The Christ. The Son of God. The Savior of the World. The Way, the Truth, and the Life. The resurrection of Jesus changes everything for those who believe. It gave the original disciples the courage to live and love like Jesus. It can do the same today. It offered them hope for today and confidence for the future. It does the same for us today. It changed lives and minds then - it changes lives and minds now. The resurrection of Jesus brings us clear sight, clear hope, clear assurance, empowerment, peace, and the knowledge that no matter what we face, we have the unstoppable, sin-defeating Savior on our side.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Observations, Surprises, and Takeaways from:

Take turns and Read [John 20](#) out loud as a group.

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. 11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). 17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet

ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. 19 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.

Discuss

1. How do current realities or circumstances affect the way we interpret life? Why?
2. What has God given us through the resurrection of Jesus?
3. What motivates us to share our surprises (both pleasant and unpleasant) with other people?
4. When has a positive happening in your life appeared at first to be a confusing, unfortunate, or tragic event?
5. Discuss this quote from Pastor Dave over the weekend: "The Resurrection did more than raise one man from death to life, it raised all of hope back into life." How is this true? Why does this matter?
6. What difference does having hope make in life?
7. Ephesians tells us that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available for us to know. Where in your life do you see this power showing up?
8. Where do you need clear vision and hope to invade your life right now? Is there someone you know that needs hope and clear vision right now? How can you help them see this week? How can this group help you?
9. How can you use the Gospel of John to tell others about Jesus?
10. Read and discuss: 1 Corinthians 15:56-57
 - o "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

End Your Group Time in Prayer

