

Week of April 5, 2026 - Peace Be with You | Small Group Lesson 13

Connect

In today's scripture, the disciples are hiding in a locked room (v.19) trying to find safety and peace. When you need a moment of peace, where is your favorite "safe space" or hiding spot to wait upon the Lord?

Verses - John 20:1-23 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

1 On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark.
She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she went running to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, “They’ve taken the Lord out of
the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him! ” 3 At that, Peter and the other disciple
went out, heading for the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran
Peter and got to the tomb first. 5 Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did
not go in. 6 Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen
cloths lying there. 7 The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths
but was folded up in a separate place by itself. 8 The other disciple, who had reached the tomb
first, then also went in, saw, and believed. 9 For they did not yet understand the Scripture that
he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.
11 But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the
tomb. 12 She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus’s body had been lying, one at the head
and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? ” “Because they’ve
taken away my Lord,” she told them, “and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” 14 Having said
this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. 15
“Woman,” Jesus said to her,“why are you crying? Who is it that you’re seeking? ” Supposing he
was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you’ve carried him away, tell me where you’ve put him, and
I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic,
'“Rabboni! ”' – which means “Teacher.” 17 “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not
yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my
Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to
the disciples, “I have seen the Lord! ” And she told them what he had said to her.
19 When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with
the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to
them,“Peace be with you.” 20 Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the
disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again,“Peace be with you. As
the Father has sent me, I also send you.” 22 After saying this, he breathed on them and said,
“Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain
the sins of any, they are retained.”

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses.

1. In vv.6–7, how were the linen cloths and the face cloth arranged? How does this "quiet order" contrast with the panic and "chaos" Mary initially feared in verse 2?

2. In v.15, Mary is so overwhelmed by grief that she doesn't recognize Jesus. What specific word from Jesus in v.16 changes her heart from mourning to joy and peace? Why did that work?

3. In v.19, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors because they are afraid. What is the very first thing Jesus says to them, and why was this the most important thing for them to hear right then?

4. According to verse 20, what did Jesus do immediately after saying "Peace be with you"? How do His wounds (His sacrifice) provide the foundation for the peace He offers us?

Share

DISCUSS 1

Pastor Takeshi used a water pump illustration to show that experiencing the abundant "water of life" requires us to pour out and surrender what little security we currently hold on to. What is your "jug of water" right now? What is your earthly security, relationship, or personal dream that you feel hesitant to surrender completely to God?

DISCUSS 2

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I also send you," giving us His Spirit to act as an extension of His presence to the world. How does knowing you are sent as His peace offering change the way you plan to interact with your coworkers, family, or neighbors?

Minister to one another sharing specific prayer requests.