

What Now?

Scripture and Background Information for July 11-17.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

The last couple of months were crazy. An unseen force pushed our lives upside down. Finally, it seems we left the worst behind us. Nevertheless, all of us experience setbacks and other losses. But when life stops us or interrupts us, how do we keep going, or how can we start going again? Today, we will see what the Bible says about what keeps us going. For that, we will look at **John 20:19-22**.

Background for John 20:19-22:

Jesus was crucified, and all his disciples were left in fear. One friend of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea, took Jesus' body and buried it (19:38). Three days later, the disciples were still grieving Jesus' death. Additionally, they feared the Jews. They thought the Jews might persecute them like they did Jesus. Thus, the disciples hid in locked rooms. All their hopes with Jesus came to an end. Their hopes, their dream, even their lives came to a sudden stop.

While hiding in locked rooms, Jesus shook their lives up again. He appeared to the disciples, showing them that he overcame death, as he had promised (Mt 17:22-23; Mk 9:30-32). With his appearance, Jesus changes the disciples' hearts from grief to joy. He then tells them that He sends them out, as the Father sent him out.

Here are several insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What was the disciples' focus when Jesus is crucified? How did Jesus reverse their focus?
2. How is Jesus' resurrection a motivation for our life? How does He motivate the disciples?
3. When Jesus sends us out to do the work he has prepared for us, how does he help us with that? Compare to his promise in John 16:7-13.
4. Why did Jesus appear before the disciples? What was the motivation (particularly with verse 21 in mind)?

Note: Christ's resurrection is the motivator for us to keep going whenever our life is interrupted (Rom6:5). His promise to resurrect us with him diminished all obstacles. Even when we face death, Jesus' promise of eternal life gives us peace in discomfort. He gives us peace that overcomes all fear, all worry, and all distress. Through Him, we can keep going or start going again when everything seems to be against us!

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

July 18-24

Mt 6:9-13; Lk 11:1-4