

# Because He Lives Week 2

## Peace Be With You... Even When You Doubt

John 20:19-31

### Big Idea

The risen Jesus does not shame fear or doubt; He meets them with peace and invites honest faith into His presence.

### Introduction

- The first Easter didn't remove struggle, it revealed Jesus meeting people in it
- Week 1: Jesus meets us in grief
- Week 2: Jesus meets us in fear, anxiety, and doubt

#### Key Truth:

Jesus does not wait for courage before He comes near, He brings peace into fear.

## 1. The disciples are alive... but still locked in fear

John 20:19

- The resurrection has happened, but the disciples are hiding
- Fear can quietly control our lives
- Faith and fear often coexist

**Key Line:** You can be alive in Christ and still feel locked in fear.

## 2. Jesus brings peace into the places we hide

John 20:19-20

- Jesus enters the locked room
- He doesn't shame, He speaks peace
- "Peace" (shalom) = restoration, wholeness, life set right

**Key Line:** Peace does not come from control, it comes from Christ.

### **3. The resurrection does not erase scars, it redefines them**

**John 20:20**

- Jesus still bears the wounds
- The cross is not erased, but redeemed
- Our scars can become places of grace

**Key Line: The resurrection doesn't remove scars, it redeems them.**

### **4. Peace comes before purpose**

**John 20:21-23**

- Jesus gives peace before sending them
- Mission flows from presence, not pressure
- We are sent as people who have been steadied by Christ

**Key Line: Peace before purpose. Presence before pressure.**

### **5. Thomas shows us that honest doubt is welcome**

**John 20:24-25**

- Thomas is not rebellious, he is wounded and cautious
- Doubt is often relational, not just intellectual
- Honest wrestlers belong in the story

**Key Line: People with questions are not disqualified, they are invited closer.**

### **6. Doubt can be dangerous, but it doesn't have to be**

**John 20:26-28**

- Doubt can deepen faith or drift away from it
- Jesus meets Thomas at the point of his doubt
- Thomas moves from doubt to confession

**Key Line: Doubt becomes dangerous when it grows distant from Christ and community.**

### **7. Jesus invites us to trust Him even when we haven't seen**

## **John 20:29-31**

- We are the “not seen” people
- Faith is grounded trust, not blind belief
- John writes to invite us into life in Jesus

**Key Line: Faith is not having no questions, it is trusting the risen Christ.**

# **Application**

## **1. Bring Jesus your fear**

You don't have to wait until you feel strong.

## **2. Let peace come before purpose**

Stop trying to live faithfully from anxiety.

## **3. Bring your doubts into the room**

Don't isolate, wrestle honestly with Jesus and in community.

## **4. Let your scars be redeemed**

Jesus can meet you in your pain and reshape its meaning.

## **5. Move from curiosity to confession**

The invitation is not just belief, but allegiance.

# **Conclusion**

Jesus steps into locked rooms.

- He meets fear with peace
- He meets doubt with invitation
- He meets wounded people with grace

**Because He lives...**

- fear doesn't get the final word
- doubt doesn't get the final word
- Jesus does

And He still calls us to say: **“My Lord and my God.”**

## **Next Week**

### **“We Had Hoped” Luke 24:13-35**

A message for those carrying disappointment: *“I thought God was going to do something different...”*