

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### ④ Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection – The Gospel of John

#### INTRODUCTION | The risen Jesus

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Thomas' surprising skepticism is very much like what we encounter in today's world. He did not believe immediately and also requested verification. I would like us to turn and consider the nature of the resurrection and its meaning. First, I'd like to think about the internal psychological mechanism in each of that does not believe in the resurrection. Secondly, I'd like to reflect on the grace that the resurrection brings to our lives. Thirdly, I want us to think about what an amazing reality the resurrection is and biblically what its meaning entails.

#### SCRIPTURE | John 20:19-31

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20.19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." 24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name

#### QUESTIONS |

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1: (24-25) At the beginning, what did Thomas think about the resurrection? What do modern people think about the resurrection?

2: (26-29) What did Jesus do in response to thomas' disbelief?  
Why did Thomas come to believe in the resurrection? How did you come to believe in the resurrection?

3: If you come to believe in Jesus' resurrection, how do you begin understand our lives and this world? When confronted directly by the absurdity or irrationality of your life how does the the resurrection bring hope or encouragement?

4: (19-23) What was the situation of the disciples when the resurrected Jesus first appeared to them? If the resurrection had not happened to the teaching of Christ's apostles?

5: If you by the Holy Spirit have received the resurrected Jesus how does this change your life? What influence would it have in the world? Think about this question as you compare it with Genesis (Genesis 2:7 and Genesis 3:8)

6: Receiving by the Holy Spirit the resurrected Christ makes us a new creation. How is it, that we can show this resurrection grace? (Ref 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

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### REFERENCES |

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#### **Genesis 2:7-8**

2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

#### **Genesis 3:8**

3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17-18**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

### PRAYER |

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- Hallelujah! The Lord is risen. Really the Lord is risen. Hallelujah. This reality is the only hope in our lost and doubting world. This resurrection has brought shalom to this world and new life to our lives. Let us sing and praise our God.
- As we doubt and lose confidence in this resurrection we overcome with fear and anxiety. Not only this, but in this fear we turn to things of this world (idols) and look to them for what we need. As we in prayer brought by the Holy Spirit let us confess these things and confess that the resurrected is truly “My God and my Lord”.

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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- 1: Gospel Choir (4/11)
- 2: Lunchtime meeting (Kundanshita 4/12, Marunouchi 4/13, Otemachi 4/13)
- 3: Baptism class (4/13)
- 4: Ishinomaki volunteer trip (4/15-17)
- 5: Obento project (4/16)
- 6: Crossroads bible study (4/17)
- 7: Lunchtime meeting (Akasaka 4/19, Kasumigasaeki 4/20, Otemachi 4/21)
- 8: Baptism class (4/20)
- 9: Crossroads bible study (4/24)