

AfterWords
Fearful or Empowered
John 20:19-23
April 24, 2022

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to equip you to do the next right thing. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out the questions that will stir up conversation and action around your group.

KEY POINT

The disciples were afraid. Jesus was murdered by the Romans at the request of the religious leaders. They thought they would be next. They went into hiding. Then Jesus appeared and empowered them with the Holy Spirit. As a disciple of Jesus, you have been empowered by the Holy Spirit too. Are living fearful or empowered?

LAUNCH IT

- How would you describe the resurrection to someone who has never heard or read the Easter accounts in the four gospels in the New Testament?
- What do you expect people's response would be in hearing about the resurrection for the first time?
- Would you be fearful to tell the story because you would be afraid of the person's reaction, or would you feel empowered to tell the story with excitement and conviction? Why?

EXPLORE IT

- Read **John 20:19-23**
 - Read the passage out loud. Pick a couple of different translations.
 - We are reading the Bible to learn to hear the voice of God.
- What jumped out at you about the passage? Words, names, people, location, verbs?
 - What do you think the disciples' reaction would have been when they saw Jesus the first time?
 - Why do you think Jesus showed them His hands and side?
- Read **John 20:19-23** in one or two different translations. Have someone re-tell this story in their own words.
 - What do these verses say about God?
 - What do these verses say about people?
 - What do these verses say about obedience?

APPLY IT

- Re-read **John 20:19-23** one more time.
- Have someone else re-tell this passage in their own words.
- In light of what we now know about this passage, what is God calling you to **do** this week?
 - Make it specific and be ready to share what you did next time.
- Who is the Holy Spirit prompting me to share these verses with?
 - Make it specific and be ready to share what you did next time.

PRACTICE IT

- Now what?
 - When you are afraid, what does hearing "Peace be with you!" from Jesus do to you? How does it free you to live for His glory?
 - If you are a Jesus follower, you have the power of the Holy Spirit. What do you think God is sending you to do in Jesus' name?