

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GOD BECAME MAN

WEEK 27

April 4 & 5

Jesus' Compassion for Skeptics

This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES RECAP

Back in August, we started going through the gospel of John and left off in chapter 9. John's gospel is unique from Matthew, Mark and Luke in that John was one of Jesus' first followers and closest friends, and was written around A.D. 85. In his writing, John's primary aim is to persuade skeptics that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God (20:30-31).

SERMON SUMMARY

As we come to John 20, we're coming to the end of Jesus' life on earth and His resurrection. The resurrection changed everything. Jesus is who He says He is and fulfills every promise He makes. Because of this, we can live with resurrection hope.

MAIN TEXT

John 20:1-31

GETTING STARTED

What was your favorite moment from Easter weekend?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read John 20:1-31 out loud as a group. What did Mary Magdalene assume had happened to Jesus' body when she saw that the stone was rolled away from the tomb? Who did she proceed to tell about it?
2. A question that we all have to wrestle with as we begin our relationship with Christ is, "Can I trust Jesus or not?" Prior to believing in Jesus, what held you back from fully trusting Him?
3. We learned this weekend that faith is living your life with confidence that Jesus is who He says He is and that He will keep His promises. List some examples of promises that Jesus has made to you.
4. Many of us have witnessed a bad version of Jesus at some point in our lives, possibly through a negative church experience or a judgmental Christian. Have you ever purchased a faulty version of a real product? In what way(s) have you seen Jesus represented poorly? What is the danger in allowing people to become our standard of Jesus?
5. If you buy into a bad version of Jesus, then you'll put up with a bad version of just about anything else in life, including a bad version of yourself. If you don't know who Jesus is and what He says about you, then you're left trying to figure out your identity and worth on your own. When did you find your identity in Christ? What was the biggest difference in your life once you realized this?
6. In verses 24-29, we read that Thomas did not initially believe that the disciples had seen Jesus after His resurrection. After eight days, Jesus appeared to Thomas and showed him His scars so that Thomas would believe. What can we learn from this exchange between Jesus and Thomas? In what way(s) have you lost sight of God's timeline in the past?

NEXT STEPS

If Jesus truly resurrected from the grave, then it deserves our full attention. It means that we can have confidence that He will fulfill His promises and that everything He said and did can be trusted.

Does Jesus have your full attention right now? If not, what else is grabbing your attention? How can you glorify God with those things instead of keeping Him separate from them?