



Key Scripture:

Philippians 2:5–11 (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 20:19–29 (ESV)

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.”

[...]

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.”

Discussion Questions:

You may have heard the Easter story retold over the last week. **What has stood out to you the most over this last week?**

Is it possible to be a Christian and not believe in the resurrection of Jesus? What do we give up if we don't believe that it really happened? 1 Cor 15:12-19

Over the 3-days of Easter it appeared to the disciples that Jesus was finished, and was not really God after all. **Have you ever felt abandoned in this same way? How did Jesus reveal himself to you again?**

Read John 20:24-29. Thomas in didn't believe that Jesus had returned. **What do you think about what Jesus said in verse 29?**

Thomas got to physically confirm his belief. **But, how does Jesus reveal himself to us who “have not seen” him? How would you explain your assurance in Jesus' resurrection to a non-believer?**

Most of the disciples died for their faith. **How does this speak to the validity of the resurrection? What else backs up the truth of the resurrection?**

In Philippians 2:5-8 we see how human Jesus was. **How did the truth of this make the cross harder for Jesus?**

Is Jesus the only person who has been obedient to death? How does this obedience still take place are the world today?

Why don't Christian martyrs renounce their faith to save their lives, then keep on living as Christians afterwards? Why is it worth it?

Do you think that you have the same obedience as Jesus and those who have been martyred?

1 Timothy 1:10 talks about how Jesus has conquered death and brought life for us. **How does being secure in this knowledge produce obedience in us?**