

BYF—May 17, 2026
Resurrection Appearance #6: John 20:19-29
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1. Open with prayer and reading John 20:19-29

2. Remind the group about John 20:1-18

3. Jesus Appears to the Disciples (vv. 19-21)

- Jesus appears (v. 19)
- Jesus shows His hands and side (v. 20)
- Jesus grants His peace (v. 21)

4. Jesus Grants the Holy Spirit (vv. 22-23)

- Potential problem: are verses 22-23 John’s version of Pentecost? If so, what about Acts?
- Looking at two different bestowings of the Spirit?
- Three options:
 - Full version of Pentecost—giving of the Spirit to the disciples in fulfillment of the Farewell Discourse (held by F. F. Bruce and Gary Burge).
 - Partial giving of the Spirit, made of full effect in Acts 2.
 - Symbolic or anticipatory giving of the Spirit, based on difference in Greek between “breathing into” and “breathing on” and intended to shed light on what would happen in Acts (held by Andreas Kostenberger).
- Personal opinion: lean toward the third option because of Reformation principle of letting easier understood portions of Scripture help us interpret more difficult portions of Scripture.
- “The main things are the plain things, and the plain things are the main things.” (Attributed to Alistair Begg)
- Questions:
 - ***The principle of the more plain Scriptures helping with the less plain Scriptures is sound. So with what other difficult Scriptures you have struggled? How have easier to understand “main thing” Scriptures guided you?***

5. Jesus Appears to Thomas (vv. 24-29)

- Thomas the “evidentialist” or “materialist” misses the meeting (vv. 24-25)
- Jesus appears 8 days later (v. 26)
- Jesus shows Thomas (v. 27)

- Thomas believes and professes (v. 28)
- Jesus affirms those who believe without seeing (v. 29)
- Questions:
 - ***How does Thomas' attitude both before and after he sees Jesus give added credibility to the resurrection?***
 - ***What can we learn from Jesus' encounter with Thomas about Jesus? About doubt?***
 - ***More than 2000 years later, we are in the "believe without seeing" category. How much do we struggle with belief? How do we address it? How do we share with others who struggle from our experience?***

6. Close with prayer.