

## **Pentecost: Hope-shaped Mission empowered by a Life-giving Spirit**

### **Read John 20:19-23**

1. Jesus' first words to his disciples are "Shalom Alekhem". It is the typical Hebrew greeting – peace be upon you. Or is it? He repeats it revealing to us that the results of his resurrection are a future of utter peace, utter flourishing, utter healing in every aspect of life. When you think of a future of utter flourishing what do you envision?
2. In light of this new future Jesus invites his disciples to do the things he did. Easter does not give us a spiritual other-worldly future, which is an escape from the world it gives us mission to the world. What are the things that Jesus came to do that now we are invited to do?
3. Where Easter commissions, Pentecost empowers. Where Easter sends Pentecost equips. **Read Genesis 1:1-5; 24-25 and Psalm 104: 1-4; 24-30.** Jesus breathes on them inviting them to receive the Holy Spirit. In light of the passages you just read what does Jesus breathing on them communicate about the nature and purpose of the Holy Spirit?
4. (vs. 23) This last line was a common Jewish phrase that meant to work out the details of a command. In the context of Jesus' encounter with his disciples he is inviting them in this phrase to work out the details of that future he has won for them at Easter in every aspect of life. Explore together your work lives, relational lives, consumer lives... and talk about how this promised future impacts those areas.
5. It is a grave distortion of Christian hope that keeps us focused on the spiritual leaving the world as it is and allowing evil to proceed unchecked. (Adapted from N.T. Wright) Discuss.