

## Small Group Questions – April 11 - Read John 20:19-31

1. Even though the new creation has come, we persist in the darkness of our times between Easter and when Jesus returns. Jesus met His disciples in their fear and despair. And His first words to them were, "Peace be with you". How do we experience today the peace of Christ in our lives?

*The question invites self-reflection for how we have particularly experienced the wellbeing of God in our relationships: relationship with ourselves, with other people, with the world, and with God. Allow others to share openly, honestly, and encouragingly.*

2. After Jesus spoke peace, He immediately commissions the disciples to the ministry of proclaiming the good news of the resurrection. How do we today live into and proclaim the good news of the resurrection?

*Our actions and habits speak a greater message when we are not hoarding and bunkering into this world, but instead releasing ourselves and giving our person and possessions away for the good and welfare of the world. But loving your neighbour is not the good news. We must then speak and bear witness that our loving neighbour is out of obedience to the command of the resurrected Jesus who calls on everyone to repent of sin and to turn to Him for the forgiveness of sins. And so, as we live faithful lives, we must also speak faithfully about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

3. Thomas was not with his friends when Jesus appeared. Throughout the week leading up to next Sunday, Mary Magdalene and the other disciples would have told Thomas many times about the risen Jesus. How could we today speak and testify about the resurrection to our friends and our neighbours who do not believe?

*We ought to be sensitive and gracious in our speech. We are not to be argumentative or belligerent or arrogant. We invite dialogue and conversation and should not be afraid of questions and pushbacks. And so, it will take time within the context of a trusted relationship and friendship with others. We do not dismiss people's misgivings and past hurts from religion, but instead to sympathise, comfort, encourage, and apologise if the hurt had come from us. In all this, we can speak truthfully of the Gospel in all humility, grace, and patience.*

4. Jesus rebukes Thomas for his unbelief and invites him to believe in Him. Then Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" Though we have not seen the risen Jesus, how could we as a community inspire and encourage one another in our faith and trust in the resurrected Lord?

*Let us ask of one another and check in on how we are doing in all things. We ought not to be afraid of tough questions about spiritual matters. We can often*

*linger just on the surface of our own lives and never invite others deeper into the inner space of our hearts and minds. Let us take risks in our relationships: to trust others and to entrust ourselves to others, so that we may become open to God's work in and through others, what the Lord may be speaking to us from others.*