

April 12, 2026 – Small Group Questions

Resurrection Gifts

John 20:19-31

This past Sunday, we began a sermon series entitled “*Equipped for Spirit-Shaped Mission.*” This series focuses on how the risen Jesus prepares his disciples for mission in the 40 days after his resurrection.

Small Group Questions with Leader Guide

- 1. In verses 19–20, what is the situation of the disciples when Jesus appears to them? What emotions or conditions seem to define that moment?**
- 2. In verses 19–23, what resurrection gifts does Jesus give to the disciples that prepare them for joining in his mission?**
- 3. In verse 22, Jesus gives a preview of Pentecost—the soon-to-come day when the Holy Spirit would be poured out on the church. What is the significance of the action that accompanies the command to “receive the Holy Spirit”? How does this significance inform our view of what it means to be a Christian?**
- 4. The first command of the risen Jesus to his gathered disciples is not to *do* things for him, but to receive the Holy Spirit. Why is it crucial to remember the priority and presence of the Spirit as we join in Jesus’ mission? How does this shape our understanding of the church’s mission in the world?**
- 5. The new creation has come in Jesus, and yet the Christian life is the “struggle to receive what has been poured out on us from the first” (David Yeago). In verses 24–25, we see Thomas’s struggle. The disciples go to Thomas, one of their own number, to share the good news that Jesus is alive. How does this inform our understanding of what it means to be the church? Where does the mission to share and embody the good news of Jesus begin?**

Closing Prayer

Close in a time of prayer focused on:

- The presence of the risen Jesus in our midst during the Easter season
- Welcoming the Holy Spirit to make us into the new creations we already are in Christ, and to empower us to serve God and the world
- Any areas of personal struggle within your group