

JOHN

Chapter 20

Note from Kathy

Knowing the why is often just as important as knowing the what. In John 20 the author tells us why he wrote this gospel account. There was much more that could have been written of the story of Jesus. In this chapter we find two key verses that clearly reveal his purpose. John 20:30-31 says, “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” My prayer is that you too have seen Jesus and that you believe and have life in his name.



This week you have a choice...

You can either answer the below Observation questions from John 20, or you can do the chart that follows the Application section—or you can do both. Simply fill in the chart with a brief summary of the events of each of the verses.

Observation

1. A Jewish day was measured much differently than our day. Their days started at sunset and ended at the next sunset. Mary Magdalene and the other women had prepared their spices in the night and headed to the tomb in the early hours of the morning. What task had been done in haste by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus that the women wanted to finish?
2. Not until they were headed to the tomb had they thought about the giant round stone in front of the opening. Mark tells us they were discussing this as they were on their way. What wonderful surprise did they get when they approached?

3. Unfortunately, this good news was quickly followed by an alarming detail. What was the problem?
4. The women ran back to the home where the disciples were staying and told them the news. Did it surprise you that it was Peter and John who ran to the tomb?

What have you learned about the personalities of these two men so far in John's gospel?

Luke 8:1-2

“After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ²and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out.”

5. In John 20:11, we see Mary Magdalene weeping outside the tomb. What had Jesus done for Mary that had caused her to hold such a deep love and devotion for Jesus. Refer to Luke 8:1-2.
6. According to verses 14-16, who was the first follower to actually see Jesus after his resurrection?
7. That evening the scripture tells us the disciples were in their home with the doors locked. Why did they have their doors locked?

John 20:19-20

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.”

8. According to John 20:19, Jesus came and stood among them and talked with them. What undeniable proof did he show them?
9. Unfortunately, one of the disciples was not present. Which one?
10. When this absent disciple heard from the others that they had seen Jesus, what did he say it would take to convince him that Jesus was truly alive?

John 20:30-31

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

11. How long did this disciple have to wait to see Jesus for himself?
12. John makes a statement in verse 30 letting the reader know this gospel in no way covers every sign, miracle and teaching of Jesus. That was not his purpose in writing. What was his purpose according to verse 31?

Application

1. Everyone deals with grief in their own way. It is pointless to tell someone how they should feel or how they should react to the death of someone they love. Have you ever lost a loved one and wanted to do just one more thing in their honor? What did you do?
2. The resurrection was an unbelievable event. Even those closest to him, those who heard him speak about his resurrection, were confused and filled with sadness when he died. What was their response when they saw him for themselves?

Have you been over-whelmed by facts of Jesus' death and overjoyed at his resurrection, as you have studied these last few chapters?

3. Both times Jesus met with his disciples after his resurrection he spoke peace to them. I'm sure their hearts were troubled. The Jewish leaders had no difficulty killing Jesus; they would have no qualms killing his followers. Fear and anxiety can be eased by the presence and the words of Jesus. When your heart is anxious and filled with fear, do you hear Jesus speaking peace to you? Share a time you were feeling anxious or fearful and the word of God brought you peace.
4. Jesus is giving his disciples their Spirit-powered and Spirit-guided mission, to preach the good news about Jesus for all to hear. Only God can forgive sins. The disciples were to go and share how a person can have their sins forgiven and have a relationship with Jesus. How are you at sharing this good news?

You do not need to know the whole *Bible*. You only need to know that Jesus saves sinners who turn to him by faith. According to 1 Peter 3:15, what are we to be prepared to do?

Are you ready? Why not find someone this week to share the hope you have? If you do it, share it with your group.

1 Peter 3:15

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”