Week Eight: April 6  
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Text: John 20:19-31

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” 28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 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.

Reflection:

What must I see to believe?

Is the testimony of the Holy Scriptures and the community enough to assure me that Jesus lives: he died, was resurrected from the dead and lives?

Unlike Thomas, I have no desire to view scars of nail prints or spear wounds. No, no thank you.

Tell me instead of how the risen Christ has appeared to you and has given you hope, healing and new life! Show me…

Pass to me the peace Jesus has given to you — in your kindness, love and faithfulness. Then I shall be satisfied. Then I shall be blessed beyond the words this story tells.

I pray not to see any more scars of suffering and sacrifice that have bought my redemption. Let me only join you in giving thanks and in showing forth good news, lest others must go and suffer likewise for my soul.

Personal Prayer:

Whatever it takes, Lord, help my unbelief!

Make a Difference:

Find someone each day this week in whom you see the Spirit of Christ and thank that person for making a difference. Likewise, take that extra step; go out of your way each day, to show kindness to someone else in need.

Community Prayer Focus:

Lord God, help us to accept your grace to live our testimony of you in kindness, love and faithfulness.
Meeting Idea:

Take a portion of your meeting to strategize as a group then go quickly to bless someone in the school with the love of Jesus.