



One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 20

Song for the week: See a Victory - Elevation Worship

Song links: <https://youtu.be/YNd-PbVhmvA?si=MSjE5YtBMCVgnpjQ>

Suggested Reading Plan for John 20 (March 31 - April 6)

(click on underlined verses or use your Bible)

Day 1: [John 20:1-10](#)

Day 2: [John 20:11-18](#)

Day 3: [John 20:19-23](#)

Day 4: [John 20:24-29](#)

Day 5: [John 20:30-31](#)

John 20:1-10

John tells us that Mary was first to the tomb. From [Matthew 28:1-10](#), [Mark 16:1-7](#) and [Luke 24:1-10](#) it is clear that she was there with at least four other women. Spices helped control the smell of decomposition. The fact that first Nicodemus used spices on the body ([John 19:39](#)) and now the women had come to do the same means they were not expecting Jesus' resurrection. For the women, they would have been concerned with who would roll away the stone for them to anoint Jesus.

Stopping at this point in the story, imagine you are with the women. As you come towards the tomb, what might you have been feeling? How would that change first when you see the stone rolled away and then again when you notice the grave is empty?

Eve was the first to eat the forbidden fruit in the garden ([Genesis 3:1-9](#)) then Adam ate of it. Jesus spoke first to the women at the tomb and then to the disciples. "Was it not most fitting that a woman should first see the risen Saviour. She was first in the transgression, let her be first in the justification (Charles Spurgeon)."

How do these stories woven together encourage your faith? Does God's attention to detail challenge how you pray? If so, how?

Putting it into practice: Think about a need you have right now. Consider all the details that go into it. Knowing God cares about the details, read [Matthew 6:25-30](#). Turn your need over to God, invite Him into the details. Read [James 1:5](#) and then confidently ask God for wisdom.

With your small group: God still uses people and their stories to encourage growth of faith and a desire to have a relationship with Him. Share some "only God" stories with each other.

John 20:11-18

John 1:1-3 says that “through Him (Jesus) all things were made.” Genesis 2:8-9 says “the Lord God planted a garden...” In John 15:1 Jesus’ “Father is the gardener.” Father and Son working together. Now in John 20, Mary thought Jesus was the gardener.

What ironies do you notice in Mary thinking Jesus was the gardener?

Jesus asked Mary, ““Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? (John 20:15)” God knows everything (1 John 3:20) and collects our tears (Psalms 56:8). Jesus would have known the answer and cared about her tears.

Why do you think Jesus asked a question that He knew the answer to? Knowing God collects your tears, what does this tell you about His tenderness not just to Mary, but to you?

Jesus tells Mary to “Go ... tell them.” He chose Mary as the first person to tell others about His resurrection, proving He is God and providing a way for us to be forgiven and be made right with God. Later Jesus told the disciples “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20)”

Putting it into practice: As Christ followers, we are to follow the same command to go and tell. Invite people you know to join you at church. Or begin a conversation about God with someone you know.

With your small group: Encourage one another by sharing stories of when you have followed the “go and tell.” What happened? How did it increase your faith? Remember, it is the Holy Spirit’s part to work in the heart and mind of those who hear, to help them believe. Discuss how this can help you do your part.

John 20:19-23

Reading through John there were many miracles of Jesus recorded. Most often His miracles are classified as healing miracles or nature miracles. Some miracles can be easily missed.

What miracle happened in John 20:19? Why would it be considered a miracle? Why do you think He did this miracle?

Read Luke 24:10-40. Mary and the other women had seen Jesus and told the disciples. The two disciples going to Emmaus had seen Jesus. They returned to join the disciples and told them, ““It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon (Luke 10:34).”

Yet it was when those gathered saw Jesus themselves that they believed. By showing His disciples His hands and side, He proved He was not a ghost and they were not seeing things. They had their proof of the resurrection that could have only happened by seeing Jesus.

Why was it important that so many saw Jesus alive again and believed?

Jesus breathed on His disciples. “This Gospel of the new Creation looks back at its close, as at its beginning (John 1:1), to the first Creation (Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges).” In Genesis 2:7 God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.”

As a believer in Jesus as your Savior, you are a new creation. Where in your life have you noticed a difference because of your faith in Jesus?

Putting it into practice: Just as Jesus prayed in the garden (John 17:18) when talking to His Father about the disciples, He now tells the disciples the same thing - John 20:21. He has also sent you, as a believer, to “go and tell.” Ask the Holy Spirit to show you those you should tell about Jesus this week.

With your small group: Jesus did not perform miracles on demand. Read Matthew 38-41 together. Paraphrase together - what did Jesus say to the request for a sign? What have you learned in reading the book of John as to why He performed miracles when He did? How is this different from what the people were asking for in Matthew 38?

John 20:24-29

Thomas refused to believe even though many told him Jesus was alive. He wanted to see for himself.

How do you think the other disciples felt when they were not believed? What may they have said or done to convince Thomas?

What miracle does Jesus repeat in John 20:26? Why do you think Jesus waited a week before coming again to show Himself to Thomas?

Jesus invites Thomas to touch, to see, to believe. Thomas responds with, “My Lord and my God (John 20:28).” A lord is defined as “someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler.” What is the difference between Lord and God? Why would Thomas have used both terms?

Putting it into practice: Think of someone you have told about Jesus and yet they do not believe. Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to receive the message as true and to believe. Thank God for what He will do.

As a small group: Consider how as a small group you can help people “see” for themselves.

John 20:30-31

Read Got Questions: What were the miracles of Jesus. From the article, it says, “A miracle of God is an extraordinary or unnatural event that reveals or confirms a specific message through a mighty work.” The article also says, “The “sign” Jesus performed signifies something greater... Throughout the ministry of Jesus, many people saw His miracles as ends in themselves rather than pointing to something greater.”

What does John 2:23 say?

John 20:30 says “Jesus performed many signs not even recorded.”

In your own words, paraphrasing John 20:31; why did Jesus perform miracles?

How has studying the book of John and specifically Jesus’ miracles helped you believe He is the Messiah? If you believed in Jesus before the study, how has studying His miracles affected your faith and your understanding of why He performed miracles?

Putting it into practice: Take some time to talk with God about your faith and your relationship with Him. What do you want to praise Him for, thank Him for, confess and what do you want to ask Him?

As a small group: How many miracles of Jesus can you remember from the book of John? What did each teach you about Jesus and about the heart of God the Father?

Consider:

Jesus sacrificing His life for ours was so intentional. It was the plan all along. Before the beginning of time - Shannon Swift

It is amazing to be living out the very thing He created you to do, but the truth is, this has nothing to do with us. It’s all about Him. It’s all about His glory. It’s all about His Kingdom. We love Him, because He loved us first. - Frank Vandy

Putting it into practice: (from Frank Vandy)

You weren’t put here to be a bystander. You weren’t put here to sit on the sidelines. You weren’t put here to let others take the lead. You were given unique talents and skills and you are supposed to be a significant part of the body of Christ. Find 15 minutes of quiet time where you can be alone with Jesus.

Pray to him. Ask Him to reveal His purpose in your life. Ask Him to give you an open heart to say yes when He starts to reveal it so you. Ask Him to strengthen you for whatever it is He is calling you to do. Then watch how He works!