



2 Oct 2022

John 20:19-22 – Peace be with you! Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see.

Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

The word 'peace', used twice in this passage, is the New Testament equivalent of 'Shalom' – a Hebrew word that describes a state of wholeness, harmony and tranquility.

1. What things are currently causing you or others you know to feel fear and a lack of this kind of peace?
2. Behind many of our fears are *deeper* fears. What might be some of the fears that stand behind the fears you've just mentioned?
3. What were the disciples afraid of (v19) and how did Jesus' words and actions in vv19-20 address their lack of peace? Perhaps imagine yourself in conversation with one of the 11 disciples years later – how might they have described the impact of this encounter on them?
4. In a broken world like ours, there are legitimate reasons to feel a lack of peace and until this world is restored, we always will. But how does the resurrection of Jesus address and speak to our fears, either relieving them or at least keeping them from getting out of control?
5. In v21 Jesus says he is 'sending' his disciples out. This is in stark contrast to what he's found them doing – hiding inside (v19)! Specifically, Jesus says, "*As the Father has sent me*, I am sending you." What similarities are there between the Father's sending of Jesus and Jesus' sending of us? (Consider the purpose, activity, experience and result of the sending.)
6. We, like these disciples, can often feel afraid of accepting the 'sending' of Jesus, to go and speak of him to others. What gave them and can give us peace and boldness to do so (vv21-22)?

Respond to God's word in prayer

Take some time to pray for each other

Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."

(Taken from Lead by Paul Tripp, p42)