



KNOWING GOD

JOHN 15-21

Week 10 John 20:19-31 - My Lord and My God!

Goal: Assurance of life and forgiveness through faith in Jesus



1. The passage starts with a time reference. Take a moment to recap the emotional journey the disciples have been on over the past few days (starting with Thursday night but especially Sunday morning - 20.1ff).

You may want to use the timeline in the Daily Reading Notes booklet to prompt your discussion.

Read John 20:19-31



2. In verses 19-20, compare the mood of the room between the start and then end of these verses. Why the change?

Re-read 21-23



3. What stands out to you about these verses - what is clear, what questions do you have about them?

You definitely won't have time to get across each of the next few questions. Choose one or two which will be most helpful for your group.



4. [in pairs] Jesus likens the way the Father sent *him* into the world to the way *he* now sends *his disciples* into the world. What purpose has Jesus been sent into the world? For each passage consider: what was Jesus sent to do and what would it look like to be sent in the same way?

- a. John 3.17-18
- b. John 12.47.50
- c. John 19.57



5. What is happening when Jesus breathes on the disciples? How does this fit with the arrival of the Spirit in Acts? How do the following passages help us understand *when* the Spirit will be sent and therefore what is going on *here*?

- a. John 7:38-39
- b. John 15:26
- c. John 16:7
- d. Luke 24:46-49

6. Why do you think Jesus says this about forgiveness? What does it have to do with the work of the Holy Spirit? See also

- a. John 14:12 - *the Spirit enables the 'greater work' of proclaiming forgiveness*
- b. John 15:26-27 - *the spirit will testify about Jesus, the disciples must also*
- c. Luke 24:46-49 - *the Spirit empowers the proclamation of the message of repentance and forgiveness*

There's a connection between the work of the spirit and the message of forgiveness: the Spirit enables the proclamation (and the reception) of the gospel such that people are forgiven.

7. In what sense are people able to give or withhold forgiveness of sin? (you could think in terms of the Apostles, the Church v Christians generally)
- Mark 2:7, 10 - *only God can forgive sins*
 - John 13:20 - *to reject the apostles is to reject Jesus*
 - Luke 10:8-12 - *if a town rejects you, warn them they are under judgement*
 - Luke 24:46-49 - *the apostolic gospel is a message of forgiveness*
 - 1 John 1:9-2:2 - *John assures those who confess sin they are forgiven*
 - Matthew 18:15-18 (16:17-19) - *the church is to rebuke those caught in sin*
 - 1 Corinthians 5:2-5 - *Paul instructs the discipline of the 'immoral brother'*

The common thread here is that the apostles, and then the church speak on Jesus' behalf - to proclaim the message of forgiveness through faith in the blood of Jesus, to offer *assurance* of forgiveness to those who repent and believe, to *warn* those who do not believe that *they remain unforgiven* and under God's judgement.



Re-read verses 24-29

8. What does Thomas say he needs to do before he will believe (v25)? What connections do you notice between verses 25 and 27?



9. What does this show about Jesus knowledge of Thomas? And his patience and kindness to Thomas?



Re-read verses 30-31

10. Why has John chosen to record the particular things that are contained in his gospel?



11. How does John's purpose connect with the words of Jesus in verse 29?
Note Thomas' reaction after he has touched Jesus - the response of faith



12. What encouragement is there in Jesus' words in verse 29? What rebuke might there be?



Discussion Question



Context Question



Structure Question



Observation Question



Meaning Question



Application Question