



Face the Issue:

This week we concluded our series, The Journey. We have been on this journey together but actually, the journey to the Savior is very personal. God formed each of us uniquely and meets each of us in ways that our individual souls will best respond to him. He knows our every thought and emotion and meets us where we are.

In what ways does God meet you personally?

How does God meet you in corporate worship?

Into the Word:

Read John 20:19–23 and Luke 24:36–49.

Confused about the disappearance of Christ's body, the disciples huddled together behind locked doors in fear of the Jews and the Romans. "Peace be with you," Jesus announced as he suddenly appeared to the startled and frightened group. Jesus assured them that he was not a ghost. He let them touch his hands and feet to prove that he was flesh and bone. He further demonstrated that he was a resurrected body, not just a spirit, by eating in their presence. Once the disciples were at peace, Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He then breathed on them, promising the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would clothe them with power from on high.

Jeremy focused on the idea of "emptiness". Many times the feeling of emptiness can be a locked door that keeps us from enjoying the goodness of life. The disciples undoubtedly felt empty.

One of the songs we sang this week was "Tremble", The opening words of that song are "Peace, bring it all to peace".

The locked door proved no barrier to Christ. Why were his first words, "Peace be with you"?

Why was it important for the disciples to understand that Jesus had a resurrected body and that he was not a ghost?

How did Christ's presence turn the disciples' fear into joy? Has there been a time when God's presence replaced your fear with peace and joy.

Why did Jesus first deal with the disciples' fear before he explained the Scriptures to them? How might fear keep us from understanding God's truth?

How is the Holy Spirit related to peace? Is peace possible without the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

Why do you think Jesus once again said, "Peace be with you," as he gave the disciples final instructions? How do we attain peace?

Apply The Word

The emptiness of being huddled together in a locked room, fearing for their lives, was replaced with great joy and happiness by an encounter with a Risen Savior who knew exactly what His friends needed to hear.

There are other stories in Scripture of how the Resurrected Lord met others to fill their emptiness. He met Mary in her grief and gave her comfort. He met a skeptical Thomas and addressed his doubts. He met with a guilt stricken Peter and gave him forgiveness and a new purpose. (If you are unfamiliar with these stories, please find and read them or ask a trusted Christian friend to share them with you.)

Reflect on how Jesus has met you in your emptiness with just what you need. If you have not met with the Savior in a personal way, pray and ask him now to meet you, then share this moment with a trusted Christian friend who can guide you in your next steps on your journey.