

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 15, 2004

Passage: John 20:11-31

Memory Passage: John 20:21

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 20:1-16. Why did Mary stay at the tomb? Did she believe that Jesus had risen from the dead? What did she believe about the resurrection (John 20:1-2)? (b) What had she and the others hoped (Luke 24:17-21)? What do you think happened to those hopes when Jesus died? (c) Why didn't Mary recognize Jesus? What made her realize that it was Jesus? Why might this have been the determining factor (Luke 10:39)? (d) What is the one desire of the Psalmists (Psalm 27:4, 8)? (e) What is lacking in our day (Amos 8:11-12)? (f) Ask the Lord to give you a passion for hearing his Word. May your desire be the desire of Job (Job 23:12) and Mary.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 20:17-20. What are some of the possible problems with this text? Compare verse 17 with Matthew 28:9. (b) Why did Jesus say this to Mary? Share some of the options together. (c) How did the disciples first respond to Mary's news (Mark 16:11)? What changed their opinion? (d) Compare the account in Luke 24:36-43. What proof does Jesus offer for his resurrection? (e) What do these passages about the importance of evidence for the resurrection? Is it wrong to desire proof? (f) Thank the Lord for the accurate testimony of the resurrection. Praise him this morning as the Risen Savior!

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 20:19-23. What were the first words that Jesus spoke to his disciples? Why are these significant (Romans 5:1)? How is this a priority for evangelism? (b) What are the second words spoken by Jesus (verse 21)? What is the significance of the order of these? (c) Consider the similar words spoken by Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; and John 20:21. What is the primary concern of our Lord in each of these passages? (d) Compare the first part of verse 21 with John 17:18 and 3:16. What is essential for evangelism? (e) Why did Jesus *come* (Matthew 9:13; Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15)? Why must we *go* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)? (f) Pray that the Lord would give you a heart for the harvest, to see those around you in need of the gospel (John 4:35)?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Romans 10:13-18. *Who* can be saved? What is essential for them to be saved? Will everyone hear what we have to say? (b) Read John 20:22-23. What is the significance of Jesus breathing on them? (c) What is the ministry given by Jesus according to John 20:23 (also compare Luke 24:46-49; Acts 13:38; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)? (d) To whom does Jesus give this ministry – to only priests, only apostles, or to all believers? How would you support your answer from scripture? Who was included in the group that Jesus spoke to in the room (compare Luke 24:18, 33-36)? (e) Who can forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7)? How can we then forgive sins (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 1:27)? (f) Ask the Lord to give you boldness today to share his gospel with someone (Acts 4:29-31).

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 20:24-31. Why does Thomas not believe and what does he require to believe? (b) Was Thomas the only *doubting one* (Matthew 28:16-17; Mark 16:14; Luke 21-24; 24:36-37)? (c) How did Thomas respond to the testimonies of others (vv. 25)? Is this uncommon? How should we respond when other will not accept our testimony? How did the disciples respond to Thomas's doubt (vs. 26)? (d) Discuss the importance of evidence and faith. Why did Jesus say those are more blessed who have not seen and yet believe? (e) Why has John written this gospel? Has he included everything about Jesus? Why did he include what he did? (f) Pray for someone who has not received *your* testimony about Jesus. Invite that person to come to church with you this Sunday that perhaps they might meet the risen savior there.

*What have you learned today about the mission that Jesus has given us?*

**DATE:** August 15, 2004

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***The Commission of the Risen Christ***  
*"As the Father has sent me, so send I you."*