

Easter

Leader Conversation Guide – He’s Still Making Appearances

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Chris concluded our “Seven Days” series by examining the three appearances Jesus made in John’s gospel account of Resurrection Sunday. Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene, in a moment when she was in tears, heartbroken that the body of Christ was missing. In this encounter, we see the truth of Psalm 34:18: God is close to the brokenhearted. The second appearance Jesus made was to Thomas, the doubter. Jesus’ compassion for Thomas in this moment—His willingness to meet Thomas right where he was—confirms to us that our doubts won’t keep Jesus away. Jesus then appeared to Peter, who had utterly failed by denying Christ on the day He was crucified. This encounter shows us that our sin and mistakes cannot separate us from God’s love for us. No matter the depth of our pain, doubt, or failure, Jesus wants to appear to us. He’s calling out for us. All we have to do is respond.

Make It Practical

- Jesus isn’t as far away as you think, so **look for Him**.
- Jesus isn’t bothered by your doubts, so **reach out for Him**.
- Jesus isn’t giving up on you, so **love Him**.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”

Revelation 3:20 NLT

Talk About It

1. Who do you most relate to: Mary Magdalene, Thomas, or Peter? Explain your answer.
2. Is it difficult for you to receive the truth that Jesus accepts you right where you are? Why or why not?
3. Talk about the moment you knew Jesus was knocking on the door of your heart. What happened when you opened the door to Him?

Prayer

Jesus, we praise and glorify You as our Risen Savior! Thank You for being willing to meet us in our most painful, doubt-filled, and shameful moments. Thank You for being close to us, being unbothered by our questions, and never giving up on us. Help us trust the unfailing love and grace You demonstrated to Mary, Thomas, and Peter on Resurrection Sunday. Help us fully receive that love and grace for ourselves. Make us sensitive to Your voice so that we can respond to You when You call. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Leader Tips

Encourage your group to use the “Seven Days” journal we’ve created as a companion for this series. The journal will help your group members dig into the Scripture that tells the story of Passion Week. Consider reading through the “Resurrection Sunday” journal content together!

