

INTRO

In this session we are looking at a truly life-changing encounter which took place on that Easter Sunday evening, when Jesus first appeared to His disciples as a group. The two key points we'll be looking at are:

1. When we encounter Jesus, **He changes us**
2. Then, **He sends us out** to change the world around us

BRING YOUR BIBLES

Read aloud **John 20:19–23**, encouraging everyone to follow along in their own Bibles. The more translations the better as each may highlight something different.

Now allow the whole group the opportunity to share what stood out anew to them and why.

QUESTIONS

1. *[If your church are running the 40 Days with Jesus sermons]* What particularly impacted you from Sunday's message?
2. *[If you are using the small group videos instead]* What particularly impacted you from this week's message?
3. How would you describe the mood of the disciples at the beginning of this passage? Given the evidence we have looked at over the last two weeks, are you surprised that they are living 'in fear'?
4. How does Jesus convince His disciples that it really is Him? What is the significance of Jesus showing them His 'hands and side' and what impact does it have on them?
5. Like the disciples, the resurrection of Jesus offers us new hope – hope for our future, hope beyond the grave, hope into eternity. How does that hope impact our lives now?
6. What purpose does Jesus give to His disciples in verse 21? How does He equip the disciples to fulfill this purpose? *Note for the leader: New Power (v22), New Authority (v23).*

7. Is this purpose still relevant in our lives today?
8. What do you make of Jesus breathing on the disciples in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit? Looking back at Genesis 2:7, what are the similarities and differences between these two accounts?
9. How would you share your sense of being a new creation with someone who doesn't yet know Christ?

SHARE YOUR STORY

You can discuss the following questions together as one group or, if individuals prefer, you could split into groups of twos or threes.

10. How can we know Jesus' peace even when we can't physically see Him? Are you able to share a time when you recently experienced His joy or peace in your life?

11. Where do you sense God has sent you or is going to send you to live out His Great Commission? On a scale of one to ten, how passionate are you for this aspect of mission?

12. Share together how either you have led someone to find forgiveness through encountering Christ, or how someone led you to first find forgiveness in His name.

PRAY TOGETHER

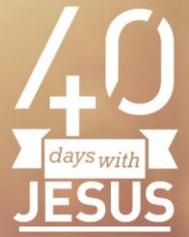
Take the time to invite the Holy Spirit into your group. Perhaps begin with prayers of worship and thanksgiving, then you may choose to follow these suggestions for specific prayer:

You could pray:

- that as you all go into your daily lives and have your daily devotions, you'll expect new encounters with Jesus
- for the Holy Spirit to fill you and to keep on filling you with His peace, hope and joy
- for a fresh passion for God's purposes in your life

WEEK 03 SMALL GROUP

WHEN JESUS COMES IN THE MIDST



- that every person in the group would realise their great power and authority, as given from God, and use it for His glory.