



BREAKING THROUGH CLOSED DOORS

John 20:1-26 & Mark 16:7

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MESSAGE NOTES

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." — John 20:19 (ESV)

*When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "... As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
— John 20:20 – 21 (ESV)*

Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." — John 20:26 (ESV)

- **The door of simple faith**

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." — John 20:2 (ESV)

*Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ...
— John 20:8 (ESV)*

- **The door of struggling faith**

"But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you." — Mark 16:7 (ESV)

- **The door of grieving faith**

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.
— John 20:11 (ESV)*

"But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you." — Mark 16:7 (ESV)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter : Share one of your favorite Easter memories and why.
- Read John 20:19 – 20. Where in your life are you needing peace and strength from Christ right now?
- Read John 20:2, 8. Why do you think John (the “*beloved disciple*”) was able to “*believe*” right away, while Peter left the tomb confused? How would you describe your own faith in Christ?
- Mary Magdalene came to the tomb on Easter morning in grief. How does the empty tomb speak to someone facing the loss of someone or something in their life?
- Why is it so powerful and healing to know that the risen Christ is calling us by name to know and walk with Him?
- In John 20, we looked at three responses of faith in the lives of the beloved disciple, Peter, and Mary Magdalene—simple faith, struggling faith, and grieving faith. Which word best describes your response to the resurrection, and why?
- Pastor Jon said, “*Nothing makes you more effective in the lives of people than your failure plunged into the sea of God’s endless grace.*” How did God display this truth through the life of Peter?
- Read Mark 16:7. Why do you think God, through the angel, singled out Peter by name when speaking to Mary Magdalene about the resurrection of Christ?
- Take some time to praise God for the power and victory of the risen Christ.