



In the Flesh – John 20-21

March 31 | Weekly Devotionals

Section 1: Introduction

Today, we are entering into John 20-21 and talking about Jesus' resurrection!

In John 20, Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and encounters the resurrected Jesus. Jesus appears to the disciples, showing them his wounds, and breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. Thomas, initially skeptical, eventually believes upon seeing Jesus. In John 21, Jesus appears to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, instructing them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. The disciples recognize Jesus, and he shares a meal with them. Jesus reinstates Peter, emphasizing the importance of love and commitment, telling him to do gospel ministry with the words "Feed my sheep." The Gospel concludes with a note about the John's testimony and a reflection on the countless other deeds of Jesus.

Read all of John 20-21. And note down any words or phrases that resonate with you along the way.

Section 2: Spend time in your passage

Engage with John 20-21 prayerfully.

- Who does Jesus appear to in John 20-21? Briefly write out a description of each encounter. Additionally, note the specific ways in which Jesus shows that he was *bodily* raised from the dead from each account.
- Why is Jesus' resurrection important?
- What significance does Jesus' breathing of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples have for their future ministry?
- How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubts, and what does this reveal about Jesus' compassion and desire for belief? What phrase does Thomas use to describe Jesus after touching Jesus?
- What is the importance of Jesus' interaction with Peter in John 21 regarding love, commitment, and ongoing gospel ministry?

Section 3: Reflection questions

Slowly reflect on the questions below.

- How does the account of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Jesus as a Gardener resonate with your own experiences of encountering Jesus as someone who gives "new life?"
- Reflecting on Thomas' journey from doubt to belief, have you ever experienced a season of doubt? What was that like? How did you handle it? Is there any solace or are there any lessons to be learned from Jesus' interaction with Thomas in his doubting?
- Think about Jesus' commissioning of Peter. What role does loving Jesus play in how you think about being missional in your own life? What would it look like for you to be a part of feeding Jesus' sheep today?
- John's gospel concludes with a reflection on the vastness of Jesus' deeds. Take a few moments to list out the countless ways Jesus has been at work in your own life over the years!

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using John 20-21 and your reflections, write out a prayer in response to your time in God's Word today.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get John 20-21 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage of your choosing to memorize from John 20-21.
2. Memorize that passage using various techniques, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.