



Easter Sunday // Jeff Brodie // April 4th, 2021

The resurrection of Jesus after his death on a cross stirred up different responses from those at the tomb--wonder, doubt, sadness, even jubilation. What will your response be this Easter? Jesus' existence isn't something you can simply ignore.

Scripture: [John 20 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: The resurrection of Jesus is a gift that demands a response.

Getting Started:

1. What is your favourite present you've ever received from someone?
2. What is the best reaction you've ever seen when you've given someone a gift?

Jumping In:

3. How familiar are you with the Easter story? What stood out to you in the account Jeff shared?
4. Jeff said, "You can't remain neutral when it comes to the resurrection of the Son of God. It demands a response." Would you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

Discuss:

5. Read [John 20:1-10](#).
 - a. What surprises you from this passage?
 - b. What do you suppose you would have done if you were there with Simon Peter and John? Why?
6. Read [John 20:11-18](#).
 - a. Do you identify with the emotions Mary Magdalene was experiencing?
 - b. How do you think you would have responded if you were in her shoes?
 - c. Re-read verses 13-16. Have you ever not recognized Jesus at work in your life? What happened?

7. Read [John 20:24-29](#).
 - a. Do you identify with the questions and doubts Thomas experienced in those first days after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead?
 - b. If you've ever doubted something before, what changed your mind?
 - c. What does Jesus' response to Thomas show us about his love for us?
8. For Simon Peter and John, it was the folded linens; for Mary Magdalene, it was the sound of Jesus' voice calling her name; for Thomas, it was the wounds in his side. All of these moments were the evidence these early followers of Jesus needed in order to believe.
 - a. What evidence has given you the confidence to believe in Jesus?
 - b. If you're not yet sure, what evidence are you looking for?
9. What is your response to the gift of Jesus' resurrection? Consider sharing with the group so you can continue the journey together of discovering the gift of eternal life that Jesus offers us.

Moving Forward:

If you have questions, doubts, or even speculations about the authenticity of the resurrection, you're not alone. Take time this week to re-read the account of Thomas, and see where you can identify with him. Then, plan to join us for *The Problem of Jesus* series starting Sunday, April 11th with author and pastor, Mark Clark.

If you're sure of your faith in Jesus and his resurrection, consider the emotions of those first sightings of Jesus after he rose from the dead. Take time this week to re-read the account of Jesus appearing to the disciples, and see where you can identify with them. Then, think about who you can invite to join you for *The Problem of Jesus* series starting Sunday, April 11th with author and pastor, Mark Clark.