



4. When the disciples left the tomb that morning, Peter left still wondering... (Luke 24:12 and John 20:9). How did John, “the other disciple” respond when he *saw* the evidence (John 20:8)?
  
5. Can you say when you first believed in Jesus? What prompted your belief?

**Scene Three: 20:10-18 – Mary lingers at the tomb**

After John and Peter returned home Mary remained outside the tomb weeping uncontrollably. While still weeping she stooped down and peered inside...

6. Describe the extraordinary experiences Mary was given that would radically transform her perspective.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. The question, *Woman, why are you crying?* (NIV) appears twice in these verses. Why do you think John emphasizes that question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Explain the meaning of Jesus’ response to Mary in verse 17 in your own words.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What is noteworthy about Jesus now calling His disciples “brothers?” (See also Ephesians 1:5-6; Romans 8:14-15 and Hebrews 2:11.)

**Personal reflection:** There is something very moving about this first encounter of the risen Lord with one of His followers. It’s not clear why Mary was chosen to be the first to gaze upon the risen Savior. Whatever God’s purpose was, we would do well to love the Lord as Mary did—to search for Him and to embrace Him with grateful hearts when He comes and calls us by *name*.

*Excitedly, Mary returned to the disciples to share the great news!*

**Scene Four: 20:19-23 – The evening of the resurrection**

10. **Review** verses 19-23. What details does John give us about the mood and circumstances of the disciples on that historic evening (John 20:19)?
  
11. Into this bewildered and confused gathering Jesus suddenly appeared! What does His manner of appearance tell us about Jesus' glorified resurrection body?
  
12. Jesus' first words to His fearful disciples were\_\_\_\_\_.

*This normal greeting now had incredibly greater depth of meaning. Jesus' very words brought the peace of God into the disciples' lives. In the midst of the fear, as their lives were totally torn apart, Jesus delivered a peace to His disciples unlike anything the world had ever experienced. This peace had conquered the grave! Jesus' death had atoned for the penalty of sin and He had brought peace between the Eternal God and His fallen creation! Now, mankind could know that peace. Do **you** know the peace that only God can give through Jesus Christ?*

13. It seems that the disciples saw Jesus but still hesitated to welcome Him. They could not believe their eyes! Because of this, what evidence does Jesus provide that He was truly their Lord? What was their response?

Also with that marvelous peace, Jesus had come to empower and commission the disciples to carry on His work in the world. At this point we witness the beginning of the fulfillment of several great truths that run through the gospel.

14. Compare John 20:21 with John 17:18, and John 16:13-14 with John 20:22. State the importance of each fulfilled promise and their relevance to you as a believer today.

Note: When Christ explained that they could forgive anyone's sins (20:23) He wasn't implying that they had God's power of forgiveness. He was merely explaining that they had the privilege of presenting the Gospel message and confirming to new believers that their sins were forgiven by Christ's death.

**Scene Five: 20:24-29 – The following Sunday**

15. What facts do we learn about Thomas from John 20:24-25?

In fairness to Thomas we should remember that only John appears to have believed in the resurrection before seeing the resurrected Lord (John 20:8). Thomas was typical of the disciples in refusing to believe until they saw.

**Reread** verses 26-29 meditatively several times.

16. Thomas must have been awestruck by the evidence that appeared before his own eyes! What does this personal appearance to Thomas tell you about Jesus?

17. How does Jesus' challenge to Thomas (verse 27) and Thomas' confession (verse 28) provide a fitting climax to John's gospel? (Recall John 20:30-31)

The story of Thomas has the purpose of telling all of us that we too can meet the Risen Lord! Jesus pronounced a special state of blessedness on those who, like John, would believe without having seen the resurrection.

18. a. Fundamental to everything a Christian believes is the miracle of the resurrection of Christ from the dead. What evidences or proofs for the resurrection does John present in chapter 20?

b. What does this evidence prove about the person of Jesus Christ?

19. What would you say is the difference between the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of Lazarus, for example?
20. How would you explain the meaning of the empty tomb and its impact on your life to someone who still has doubts about Jesus? (Consider John 11:25-26, 14:19; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, and 1 Corinthians 15:12-18 before you answer.)
21. Consider again John's express purpose in writing this gospel (John 20:30-31). Has that purpose been achieved in your life? Write a prayer asking the Lord to fully accomplish His purpose in you.
22. As you ponder all this passage holds for us ... take a few moments to make Paul's cry and longing from the book of Philippians yours....

*(For my determined purpose is) that I may know Him – that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding (the wonders of His Person) more strongly and clearly. And that I may in the same way come to know the power out-flowing from His resurrection (which it exerts over believers); and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed (in spirit into His likeness even) to His death, (in the hope) that if possible I may attain to the (spiritual and moral) resurrection (that lifts me) out from among the dead (even while in the body). (Philippians 3:10-11 Amplified NT)*