

## *Jesus the Risen Lord*

**Appetizer:** The resurrection is the climax of Jesus' story. If it is true, it is the most important event in history. It tells us that all that Jesus was and is and said and did and lived was true. If it is not true, then what Jesus said and did and claimed and lived is all thrown into doubt. The twentieth chapter of John's Gospel presents to us evidence, both physical and personal, that demands a decision.

Discussion: What do you think causes people to doubt that Jesus is alive? What causes people to doubt that God exists?

**Main Course:** Read John 20.

1. What details in this passage make it seem like genuine, eyewitness testimony?
2. In verses 1-9 John records three witnesses of the empty tomb: Mary, Peter and "the other disciple." What important facts do we learn from each one?
3. John records three personal meetings with Jesus, starting with Mary (vv. 1-2, 10-18). What impresses you about her experience?
4. Jesus appears to his disciples in verses 19-23. What do they see and hear from Jesus?
5. Finally, Jesus appears to Thomas (vv. 24-29). For centuries he has been dubbed as "doubting Thomas." Do you think this is a fair description? Why or why not?
6. How does Jesus deal with Thomas's skepticism?
7. How does Thomas's exclamation (v. 28) provide the climax to John's Gospel?
8. Reread verses 30 and 31. How does John's statement help us understand the central message and urgent purpose of his Gospel?
9. Sometimes it is said that Jesus had a "spiritual" resurrection, not a physical one. What bits of hard evidence here support a physical resurrection?

**Dessert:** What have you appreciated most about your study of Jesus these past few weeks?