

## Adult Faith Formation

### John 20:19-31

This reading involves two different scenes and a separate commentary. Though they are all related, I think there are also three separate themes from the three separate parts.

Scene/Theme 1 (verses 19-23) is Jesus with the disciples.

- 1) What are the three main messages that Jesus gives the disciples here?
- 2) Use your concordance in the back of your Bible to find other places in scripture where someone says "Peace be with you."
- 3) This is the "Pentecost story" according to John's gospel. Pentecost is when God gives the Holy Spirit to the disciples making them no longer followers (disciples) but apostles (those who go out and tell the good news). The more exciting version of this story is told in Acts chapter two. Here, the disciples inhale the breath of Jesus into their lungs.

Scene/Theme 2 (verses 24-29) features the disciple Thomas whom tradition has come to call "Doubting Thomas"

- 1) What is your emotional reaction to Thomas' need to see Jesus for himself?
- 2) What are your thoughts about Thomas' need to see Jesus for himself?
- 3) When in your life have you "seen the Lord" and how do you describe that experience to others?

Theme 3 (verses 30-31) Believing

- 1) Use the Concordance in the back of your Bible to look up the word "believe" in John's Gospel. How many times does it appear?
- 2) Read each verse which contains the word "believe" in context. Based on your reading, how would you define belief?



Doubting Thomas, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54207> [retrieved April 17, 2020]. Original source: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/sacred\\_destinations/2581797880/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sacred_destinations/2581797880/).