

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Living the Story

April 12, 2020

We are a “storied” people. Our identity is shaped by the stories we’ve been told, the stories we tell ourselves, the stories we believe to be true. The way that we see the world and experience life is shaped by our stories. And when our story changes, we change. Why am I telling you all this on Easter? Because Easter is a story that changes everything.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 20:24-29

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

I can’t help but wonder where Thomas was when the risen Jesus appeared to the other disciples. Had he gone back home? Had he returned to his old profession? We just don’t know. What we do know is that Thomas was living a story of doubt and defeat, a story in which death is final, evil wins, and Jesus’ dream of a world in which God’s love and justice reign remains just a dream. But all of that changed when Thomas encountered the risen Jesus. Jesus’ resurrection over-writes Thomas’ story of doubt and defeat with a new story - a story in which death is not the last word, evil will not win the day and Jesus’ dream of a world in which God’s love and justice reign is a dawning reality. Thomas is a changed man, because Thomas’ story changes. That’s why Jesus calls him “blessed”.

Thomas was living a story that said, “Just can’t be” but through the resurrection of Jesus his story became, “All things possible.” And that’s what Easter offers to each us. A new story that changes us. A story that says, “You are loved. You are forgiven. You are set free from your failures. You are more than enough. And death will never have the final word. That’s your Easter story. Believe it, and be blessed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When you consider the Easter story through this lens, what new ideas stand out to you?
- Can you relate to Thomas in this story? How?
- What stories have you embraced that have either limited or empowered you?
- How has the story of resurrection changed your story and the way you live?

APPLICATION: This week, consider how the resurrection story has changed your story. Who can you share that with? Your story matters. You are loved and you are enough. Believe that truth today.