

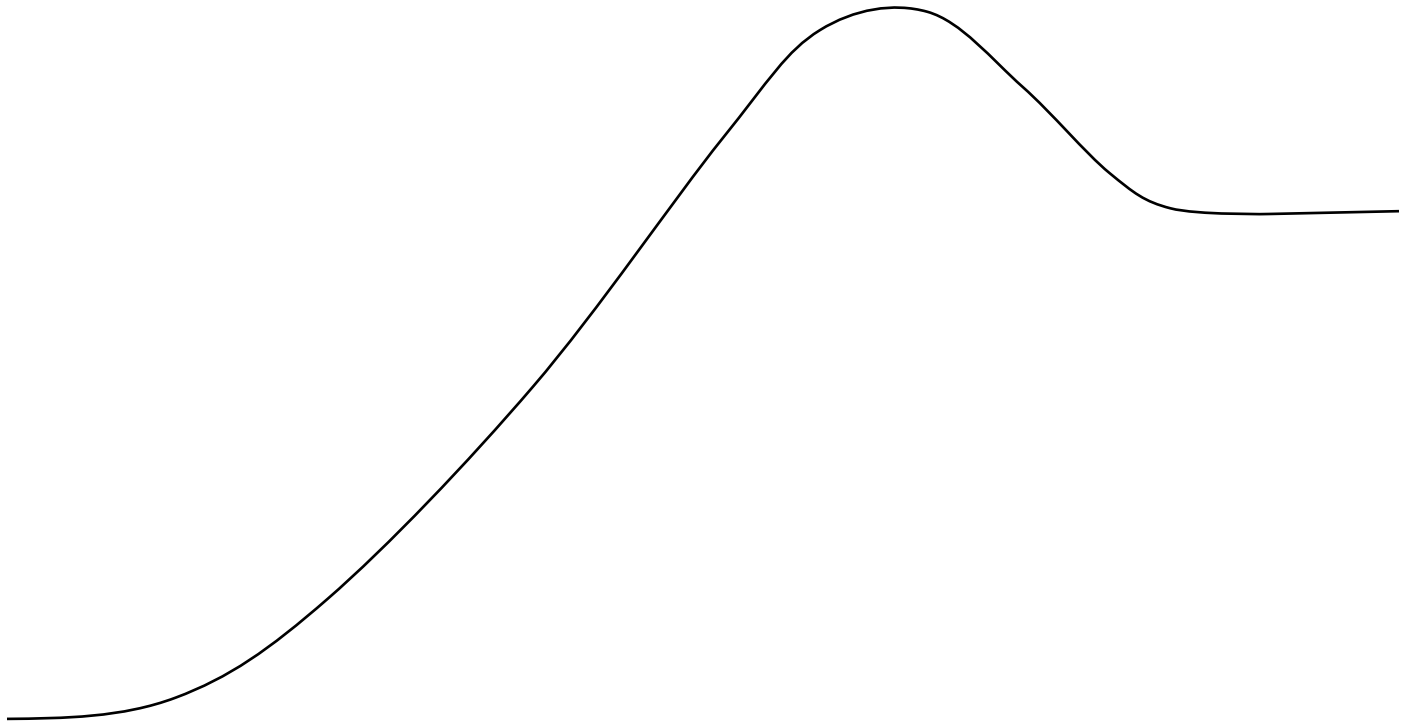


**Week – Resurrection Sunday**  
**Series:** New Creation  
**Sermon Title:** To Give Us Life  
**Sermon Text:** John 20:24-31  
**Group Week of:** March 24, 2024  
**Sermon Date:** March 31, 2024

<b>Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies</b>	
<b>Day 1</b>	Thomas – John 11:1-16 & 14:1-5
<b>Day 2</b>	Belief Struggle – Mark 9:14-29
<b>Day 3</b>	Women’s Testimony – John 20:1-18
<b>Day 4</b>	Disciples Testimony – John 20:19-23
<b>Day 5</b>	Jesus is God – John 1:1-5

**The Text:** John 20:24-31

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Fill in the plot arch** by writing down verses in the story as points on the plot line to help show you where the main lessons in the story are.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.



**Textual Questions**

- 1) What are the main lessons that John is giving to the church through this account of Thomas’ crisis of faith?
- 2) What must Thomas witness before he is willing to believe in a resurrected Christ?
- 3) What does John want the reader to do as a response to the signs of Jesus?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Accepting the testimony of another person is not always an easy thing to do, even if you trust them implicitly. Why do you think Thomas had such a hard time accepting the testimony of Mary Magdalene or the disciples who claimed to see the resurrected Jesus?
- 2) Look back on Thomas' interactions with Jesus in John 11:1-16 & John 14:1-5. How would you describe Thomas and his relationship with Jesus? How would you describe Thomas' approach to life?
- 3) Why do you think God moved John to include the testimony of Jesus' resurrection from the perspective of Thomas? What does Thomas' story uniquely add to the resurrection story, and how might this be an encouragement to those struggling with their own doubts?
- 4) When Thomas sees Jesus, he exclaims "My Lord and my God!" It's the strongest affirmation that Jesus is God from someone's mouth during Jesus' earthly ministry. Why, after the resurrection, is Jesus' deity affirmed with such boldness?
- 5) Jesus pronounces a final beatitude: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." This reminds us that Jesus looked far beyond His disciples to the generations of Christians yet to come. Our evangelism is often shortsighted; we look no further than the individual in front of us. Yet Jesus blessed us and thought of us in this conversation with Thomas 2,000 years ago. How can a more long-term view of evangelism change the way we share the gospel with those around us?
- 6) John is often called "the Evangelist" in biblical commentaries because he writes his gospel with such a clear purpose: *"But these are written that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."* To this end, John records seven signs throughout the book that were especially powerful in demonstrating that Jesus is the Messiah. If someone were to ask you why you believe Jesus is the Messiah, what "signs" would give them?
- 7) As we look forward to Resurrection Sunday, we cannot help but think of how important it is to share this gospel with the world and continue the work John was engaged in as he wrote this gospel. Who do you need to talk with? What do you need to share? Prayerfully consider these questions, then live obedient to the Lord and do the work of an evangelist in the ways He calls you to.