

# John 20 Meditation Questions

## John 20:1-9

Jesus is not in the tomb!

Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went early, while it was still dark, to the tomb, and saw the stone taken away from the tomb. **2** Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and **we** don't know where they have laid him!"

**3** Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. **4** They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. **5** Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying, yet he didn't enter in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, **7** and the cloth that had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself.

Meditation Question: What do you think went through the minds of Mary, Peter, and John when they found that tomb was empty?

**8** So then the other disciple who came first to the tomb also entered in, and he saw and believed. **9** For as yet they didn't know the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Meditation Question: Why do you think John believed when he saw what was inside the tomb?

## John 20:10-18

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

**10** So the disciples went away again to their own homes. **11** But Mary was standing outside at the tomb weeping. So as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb, **12** and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. **13** They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him."

Meditation Question: Why do you think the angels asked Mary Magdalene, 'Why are you weeping?'" Why was Mary Magdalene weeping?

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**14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, and didn't know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She, supposing him to be the gardener, said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni!" which is to say, "Teacher!"

Meditation Question: Why do you think Jesus asked Mary Magdalene, "Why are you weeping?" And, "Who are you looking for?"

Meditation Question: Why was Mary Magdalene weeping? What does this tell us about her?

**17** Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me, for I haven't yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" **18** Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her.

Meditation Question: Why did Jesus say, "Don't hold me, for I haven't yet ascended to my Father." Why did Jesus tell Mary Magdalene to "Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God?'"

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### John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to his disciples

**19** When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle, and said to them, "Peace be to you." **20** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples, therefore were glad when they saw the Lord.

Meditation Question: What was going on in the minds of the disciples when Jesus showed up in the room?

**21** Jesus, therefore, said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so, I send you." **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! **23** If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained."

Meditation Question: What did it mean to the disciples for Jesus to send them just as the Father had sent Him?

Meditation Question: What did Jesus mean when He said, "If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven? If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained?"

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### John 20:24-31

Jesus appears to Thomas

**24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, wasn't with them when Jesus came. **25** The other disciples, therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, **I will not believe.**"

Meditation Question: Why do you think Thomas refused to believe unless he physically touched the wounds in Jesus' hands and side?

**26** A week later, his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

**28** Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. **Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.**"

Meditation Question: What had to change in Thomas for him to obey the words Jesus said to him, "Stop doubting and believe?"

**30** Therefore Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Meditation Question: Explain John's purpose in writing this gospel in your own words. How has studying the Gospel of John led you to believe in Jesus? How have you received life by believing Him?