



# DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

**Week of April 24, 2022 (John 20:19-31, also John 21)**

## Prayer for Groups & Personal Devotion:

Lord of all, we come to you,  
Lord of all, our saviour be,  
come to bless and to heal  
with the light of your love.  
Lord, there are so many  
people and situations that  
need the light of your love  
today, that need the peace  
you offer.

We pray that the light of your  
love would shine into the  
darkest places where  
violence, hate and abuse  
have free reign over people,  
Lord may your peace be  
upon them.

We pray that the light of your  
love would shine into the  
hearts  
of all who are lonely,  
bereaved or ill, who are  
suffering and afraid, Lord  
may your peace be upon  
them.

We pray that the light of your  
love would shine into the  
minds of all who have power  
and authority, all who lead in  
government or other  
institutions...

## Devotions for Life A LifeGroup & Personal Resource

**The Story: John 20:19-31**

**Context:** There is not a lot to say contextually this week, since we're picking up this week right where we left off. Mary has returned and told the disciples about having seen the Lord. Now it is evening and the disciples are behind locked doors. As we close out the Gospel of John, keep an eye out for familiar themes and language (spoiler alert: the word "door" is the same as the word for "gate" in John 10 and John 18). Also, consider reading chapter 21 as well, as it has an important story in it.



### Reading the Story:

This is a story to read carefully and maybe more than once. Pay close attention to what's going on. Try to envision the scene as if it were a movie. How do things look? Who is where? How do the events actually happen? Try to put yourself there, almost like an invisible

Lord may your peace be upon them.

We pray that the light of your love would shine into the souls of all who have yet to discover the risen Christ, of all who are seeking a higher power, Lord may your peace be upon them.

We pray that the light of your love would shine into the lives of all people in the world, the youth and the elder, the able and the less able, the believer and the doubter, the seen and the unseen, Lord may your peace be upon them. So be it. Amen.

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### Acts of Compassion & Justice:

**What troubles you?** Is there an injustice in the world that you care deeply about? Wonder and pray about what you can do about it this week. See what arises!

### Contribute to Every Meal:

This month we're raising funds for the organization, Every Meal. Learn more about them at [www.everymeal.org](http://www.everymeal.org) and if you can, contribute their efforts in ending child hunger.



observer. This can help make odd stories like this come to life.

### Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- What images, words, or phrases stood out to you in this passage?
- In what ways do we metaphorically hide behind a locked door in our faith?
- Why do you think the first thing Jesus says to them is "Peace be with you"?
- What is significant about Jesus breathing on them and saying "receive the Holy Spirit"? What does it say about who Jesus is? What does it say about the disciples after Jesus breathes on them?
- How does this scene compare and/contrast with the Pentecost scene in Acts 2?
- What does Jesus mean in verse 23?
- Where do you think Thomas was? Why wasn't he there? (note: there really are no clues in the text about this - we can only speculate)
- Thomas shows up in the story a week later. What do you think the disciples were doing that week? And what has Jesus been doing?
- Is Thomas the only doubter? Why or why not?
- What do you think about Thomas' interaction with Jesus?
- What does it mean to "believe"?
- Verses 30-31 seem like a fitting end to the Gospel, so why doesn't John stop there?

