



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Jesus Breathes: New Life Begins

Jesus Appears on the Night of his Resurrection to All his Disciples (Jn. 20:19-20)

- A. The accepted narrative until John wrote: 'Only the apostles were commissioned by Jesus' (Matt. 28:16, 19-20; Acts 1:2-3, 8; 1 Cor. 15:7)
- B. To the larger group of disciples, including the apostles
- C. "Peace to you!"
- D. Jesus shows them his pierced hands & side (v. 20)
- E. The disciples rejoice

Jesus Commissions All his Disciples to Continue What He Did on Earth (Jn. 20:21)

Jesus Empowers All his Disciples to Continue What He Did on Earth (Jn. 20:22-23)

- A. He breathes on all his disciples (v. 22)
- B. He authorizes them to forgive & retain sins (v. 23)
 1. Verse 23 has a controversial role in church history
 2. It's critical that verse 23 be read in its Johannine context
 1. These words are addressed to 'all' Jesus' disciples not to the apostles only
 2. Forgiving & retaining sins has to be seen as the Spirit-empowered mission of all disciples
 3. These words must be interpreted in terms of Jesus' teaching on sin in John
 3. By revealing God to the world

New Life & New Beginnings are Breathed Out (Jn. 20:22; Gen. 2:7; Ezek. 37:9)

- A. A clear connection to God's work in the Old Testament (Gen. 2:7; Ezek. 37:9)
- B. The climax of the personal relations between Jesus & his disciples
- C. Easter is the beginning of the church's mission in John