

Small Group Discussion Guide

Unafraid: For the week of April 12 - 18, 2020

Main Thought and Scripture:

After Jesus' crucifixion, His disciples were hiding, fearing that the people who killed Jesus were now coming after them. All of them were disappointed and discouraged. Many felt ashamed and unworthy for having abandoned Jesus in His time of need. Yet, in the midst of their despair, the resurrected Jesus met them where they were and offered them a new beginning.

"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:19-22 ESV)

This passage reveals several important truths:

1. Jesus seeks us even when we aren't seeking Him.

Even though they all had failed Him, Jesus sought after them. Likewise, He seeks all of us no matter how we have failed in the past.

2. Jesus comes to bring us peace.

Jesus declared twice, "peace be with you." His desire is to bring peace to us all.

3. When we let Jesus in, He empowers us for a new beginning—to make a difference in the lives of others.

"... As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (v. 21-22)

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scripture above and why?
- How has God given you a "new beginning" in your life? What happened? What did you learn?
- What area of your life right now do you need a new beginning (guilt over past sins, relationships, finances, health, etc.)? How will you let Jesus into that area of your life?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another that God will empower a new beginning in each area of our lives through and out of this crisis.
- Pray for someone by name whom God is calling you to love and serve in this season of crisis.