

**Read John 20:1-9**

Notice how the scene is set: time, characters, situation...

*See John 19:42 (Sabbath)*

Why is Mary so upset? Why do the disciples need to go look for themselves?

Why mention the grave cloths?

*See John 11:44 (cloth)*

Jewish people took the first seven days of mourning so seriously that mourners could not wash, work, have intercourse or even study the law. Jewish culture was serious about expressing rather than repressing grief. That the body is missing and thus people are prevented from bestowing final acts of love would be regarded as intolerably tragic; even tomb robbers usually left the body behind.

*IVP Bible Background Commentary*

What do these first disciples who see the tomb understand?

**Read John 20:10-18**

What are Jesus' words to Mary?

*See John 1:34, 18:4 (who)*

How does Jesus respond to Mary's misidentification of Him?

*See John 10:3, 16 (name)*

Why doesn't Jesus want Mary to continue holding on to Him?

**Read John 20:19-23**

How effective was Mary's testimony?

*See also John 20:2*

How does Jesus get into the room with the disciples?

Why does Jesus say "Peace be with you!" twice?

How does Jesus fulfill his prayer from John 17:18?

What is the significance of having the Holy Spirit breathed into them?

*See Genesis 2:7 (breathed)*

So, whose forgiveness is it, ours or God's?

*See Matthew 16:19 (keys)*

**Read John 20:24-29**

Is it "doubt" or is it "unbelief"?

What is Thomas' response to Jesus challenge to touch Him? What is so significant about his statement?

*See John 1:1 (God)*

How does Jesus challenge us?

*See 2 Cor. 5:7 (sight)*

**Read John 20:30-31**

What does John tell us about his Gospel that is important for us to understand?