

**Sermon Series: Life in His Name**  
**Sermon Title: Let There Be Life**  
**Text: John 20**

**Discussion Questions:**

Pick out of few of these quotes regarding “Life” and discuss them. Do you find the quote helpful - or not? What simple truth do you think the author of the quote had discovered and was able to put into words?

~ *“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”*  
Albert Einstein

~ *“Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.”* Carol Burnett

~ *“Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.”*  
Charles R. Swindoll

~ *“Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live.”*  
Norman Cousins

~ *“I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”* Michael Jordan

~ *“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”*  
Pablo Picasso

~ *“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.”*  
Robert Frost

~ *“The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.”*  
Billy Graham

~ *“Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.”*  
Henry Nouwen

**Examination:**

• Read **John 20:1-10**

- What did Mary Magdalene believe had happened on resurrection morning (v. 2)?
- When Peter and John (“the other disciple”) were making a mad dash for the tomb, what did they believe had happened (vv. 3-4)?
- What did P & J discover upon reaching the tomb (vv. 5-7)?

- Put on your “detective hat.” What did the discovery of the burial cloths, lying in place in the tomb, tell them?
  - A key phrase that John is telling us about HIMSELF is that he “saw and believed.” John also parenthetically includes the detail that neither he nor Peter understood, up to this point, that Jesus had to rise from the dead. So here’s the \$10,000 question: What did Peter and John believe - and what does it MEAN that they believed?
- Read **John 20:11-18**
    - If P & J spoke with Mary after leaving the tomb (and I would have to think that they did) - what do you think they told her? Verses 11-13 indicates that she is still believing that Jesus’ body had been stolen. Does this change what you think P & J “believed” while still in the tomb? Were they simply not able to convince Mary what they had come to believe about Jesus?
    - Why do you think she failed to realize she was speaking with Jesus (v. 14)?
    - What’s significant about Mary coming to faith after hearing Jesus speaking her name (v. 16)?
- Read **John 20:19-29**
    - Is it “fair” for history to refer to Thomas as “Doubting Thomas”?
    - What did Thomas need in order to believe?
    - Do you find it interesting that the FIRST thing Jesus did (after walking through the door!) was to address Thomas’ doubt? Why was Jesus so concerned about having Thomas believe? What did He want Thomas to believe?
    - Thomas believed more than the fact the Jesus was alive. What else did he believe (v. 28)?
    - So far in this chapter, P& J believed *when* they saw the grave clothes lying in place. Mary believed *when* Jesus spoke her name. Thomas believed *when* he touched the nail scars. Is that why Jesus talks about how significant it is for US to believe without seeing Him face to face (v. 29)?
    - Are there still things - happening in our world today - that Jesus does that can lead us to faith?
- Read **John 20:30-31**
    - John tells us his purpose behind telling us these stories. What is that purpose?
    - How does this connect to all that we see happening in the entire 20<sup>th</sup> chapter?
    - But it doesn’t end with just believing. John wants us to have “life in His name.” Discuss what you think John meant by this.

### **Application:**

Be extra sensitive this coming week to ways in which you see God at work in this world. Think of them as “God sightings.” And then allow these experiences to lead you to believe that Jesus is the Son of God - and that by believing, you experience LIFE in greater measure.