



# The resurrected Jesus sends us out

**Icebreaker:** Reflect on the News Stories from the past week and choose one which has particularly stirred you to strong feelings such as anger, annoyance, sadness or pleasure. Why is this story or issue important to you? If you feel it's a situation that needs changing how would you go about this? How do we think Jesus would have responded? (These are big questions so if you have a talkative group you might like to select just one of them!)

## **Scripture: John 20:19-23**

Following the death of Jesus, the disappearance of his body and the reports of his having been seen alive; the disciples are to be found in the upper room, behind locked doors, cowering, downhearted and deeply afraid.

**Reflective Question 1:** What are our greatest fears in life, that force us to retreat to our "upper room" and bolt the door?

**Introduction:** What does Jesus do? He bypasses the locked door, appears to the disciples and not once, but twice (vs 19,21), says "Peace be with you". The power of the resurrected Jesus firstly brings peace; and then he launches the disciples on a journey – a journey from fear to faith – as He declares "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you".

This journey is only made possible by the power of the resurrection. The death of Jesus was seemingly a complete disaster, but God was in control. The power of death is broken and replaced by the power of the resurrection. And the story that unfolds in Acts is testimony to the influence of that power.

As disciples in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leeds, God is calling us on a journey – to engage in vital mission opportunities. To do what Jesus does – in our communities, our family, our work. We need to search for (pray about) that which Jesus is already doing and get on board with that. Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto his disciples (v22) and that same Spirit is available to us.

**Reflective Question 2:** How do we feel as we read that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us. (Romans 8:11)

**Reflective Question 3:** Are we afraid to declare the Gospel of the risen Jesus?

If so, are we prepared to allow His peace to fill us and calm us; and then surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit, who will enable us to engage in Jesus' mission to a lost and hurting world?

**Concluding declaration:** Christ is risen; *He is risen indeed, Alleluia.*

## **Book**

"The Message of Discipleship" by Peter Morden

Peter's sermon on this topic will be on the "Follow Me" page of "Teaching Series".