



## NOW WHAT?

### **Part 1: Conquering Fear**

Religion can get scary. It can be misused to spark fear that shrinks people's faith, rather than grows it. But in the days following his resurrection, Jesus offered a new way, a better way.

#### **Introduction**

Have you ever seen or experienced a religious group using fear as their motivator? What did that look like? What results came from that?

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

1. After the resurrection, the disciples were understandably afraid. How does Jesus respond to their fear? Why do you think Jesus showed them his wounds?
2. What role do you think the Holy Spirit has in giving the disciples confidence?
3. Why do you think Jesus talks about forgiveness in this context?

#### **Read 1 John 4:16-19**

4. What does this passage say about (1) God (2) love and (3) fear?
5. What other observations or conclusions do you draw from studying this passage?
6. On Sunday, Dave said that anything that you think you can achieve through fear, love will do better. Do you agree or disagree? What are some examples of how we try to use fear to change ourselves or other people? Can you think of examples of how love would be a better way to do those things?

#### **Moving Forward**

What are you most afraid of? How could you invite God in to this area of your life? Is there someone that you need to extend forgiveness to?

#### **Pray**

Pray for one another especially in the areas of your fears and for people that you may need to extend forgiveness to.