

STUDY GUIDE - Love Lives: Unbelief Was Taken Away

Big Idea: Jesus' resurrection proves that sin was taken away—and when sin was dealt with, unbelief lost the ground it stands on. So now, the call is simple: believe and live.

1. **Partake the Word** (Receive / Feed)

Read John 20:1–10 slowly and intentionally.

Pay attention to what unfolds:

- Mary sees the tomb and assumes the worst
- John arrives, looks in, but hesitates
- Peter enters and examines closely
- John steps in, sees, and believes

Do not rush this moment. Sit in the scene. Let the text speak.

2. **Probe the Word** (Study / Examine)

I. **The Reaction of Unbelief** (v. 1–2)

A. The Rushed Conclusion

Seeing without understanding

B. The Reduced Perspective

Interpreting through fear, not faith

C. The Report of Confusion

“They have taken the Lord...”

Greek Insight

βλέπω (blepō) – to see, notice

Mary sees physically but does not yet perceive truth

You can see something clearly with your eyes and still miss it spiritually.

II. The Resistance of Unbelief (v. 3–7)

A. The Race Toward Truth

Drawn, but not yet convinced

B. The Reluctance to Enter

Close to truth, yet holding back

C. The Revelation Inside

Open tomb, empty space, ordered cloths

Greek Insight

θεωρέω (theōreō) – to observe carefully, examine
Peter looks more closely—truth is being examined

Movement from casual seeing to intentional investigation.

III. The Realization of Belief (v. 8–10)

A. The Responsive Step

Entering in

B. The Revealed Evidence

Seeing clearly

C. The Rising Faith

Believing before fully understanding

Greek Insight

εἶδεν (eiden) – to see with understanding
πιστεύω (pisteuō) – to believe, trust, rely on

True seeing leads to trust, not just awareness.

Gospel Connection

- Sin has been taken away
- Death has been defeated
- Unbelief has lost its foundation

The issue is no longer lack of evidence.
The issue is response to what has been revealed.

3. *Practice the Word* (Live It Out)

Questions to Consider

Reaction of Unbelief

- Where am I jumping to conclusions instead of seeking truth?

- Am I interpreting my circumstances through fear or through faith?

- What assumptions about God or others might I be making that are not actually true?

Resistance of Unbelief

- Am I moving toward truth but still resisting surrender?

- What is keeping me at the doorway instead of stepping fully in?

- Am I willing to face what God is showing me, even if it requires change?

Realization of Belief

- What has God already shown me that I need to respond to?

- Am I waiting for full understanding before I am willing to believe?

- What would it look like for me to take one step of faith today?

Heart Application

- Where do I need to lay aside anger this week?

- Who in my life have I been treating like an enemy instead of someone made in God's image?

- How can I intentionally choose grace over reaction?

Practice This Week

- Look at your family, kids, grandkids, coworkers, neighbors
- Slow down and really see them
- Remember: they bear the image of God

This week:

Choose to "hug it out" instead of "fight it out."

4. Pray the Word (Depend on God)

Lord,

Help me move from seeing to believing.
From standing outside to stepping in.

Where I have assumed, bring truth.
Where I have resisted, bring surrender.
Where I have held onto anger, replace it with grace.

Teach me to see people as You see them—
not as enemies, but as image-bearers.

The tomb is empty,
help me live like it.

Amen.

Final Challenge

The tomb is empty.
Sin has been dealt with.

What is keeping you from believing—and living?