



meeting the risen Jesus

SUMMER TERM 2026

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12 APRIL	MARY AT THE TOMB	JOHN 20: 11-18
19 APRIL	PEACE BEHIND LOCKED DOORS	JOHN 20: 19-23
26 APRIL	DOUBT TO FAITH	JOHN 20: 24-29
3 MAY	THE ROAD TO EMMAUS	LUKE 23: 13-35
10 MAY	BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH	JOHN 21: 1-19
17 MAY	THE GREAT COMMISSION	MATTHEW 28: 16-20

OTHER DATES TO NOTE:

17 MAY	ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY MEETING [5PM]
24 MAY	TOGETHER FOR BRISTOL PENTECOST CELEBRATION
7 JUNE	VISION SUNDAY: THE NOW AND THE NOT YET

Mary at the Tomb (John 20:11–18) - 12 April

Key Point:

The risen Jesus meets us **personally in our pain**.

Small Group Questions:

Open:

- When have you felt deeply known or understood by someone?

Explore:

- Why does Mary fail to recognise Jesus at first?
- What is significant about Jesus calling Mary by name?
- What does this passage show us about how Jesus meets people in grief?
- Why do you think Jesus tells Mary not to cling to him?

Apply:

- Where might grief, disappointment, or distraction be affecting your ability to recognise Jesus?
- What would it mean for you to hear Jesus call your name in this season?
- How can you grow in recognising Jesus' presence in everyday life?

Pray:

- Spend time in quiet, inviting Jesus to speak personally to each of you.

Peace Behind Locked Doors (John 20:19–23) - 19 April

Key Point:

Jesus brings **peace in fear and purpose in uncertainty**.

Small Group Questions:

Open:

- What are the kinds of things that tend to make people “lock the doors” emotionally or spiritually?

Explore:

- Why were the disciples afraid, even after hearing about the resurrection?
- What stands out about how Jesus enters the room and greets them?
- What is the connection between receiving peace and being sent?
- What might it mean that Jesus breathes on them?

Apply:

- What “locked doors” exist in your life right now?
- Where do you need to receive Jesus’ peace?
- In what ways might God be sending you—even in uncertainty?

Pray:

- Pray for peace in specific areas of fear, and openness to God’s leading.

From Doubt to Faith (John 20:24–29) - 26 April

Key Point:

Doubt is not the enemy of faith—**unwillingness to engage** is.

Small Group Questions:

Open:

- How is doubt usually viewed—in church or in your own experience?

Explore:

- What do you notice about Thomas' honesty?
- How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubt?
- What's the difference between doubt that leads to faith and doubt that leads away from it?
- What does Jesus mean by "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"?

Apply:

- What questions or doubts do you carry right now?
- What would it look like to bring those honestly to Jesus?
- How can we create a culture where doubt is handled in a healthy way?

Pray:

- Invite people to quietly bring their questions to God.

The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35) - 3 May

Key Point:

Jesus is often **present even when unrecognised**.

Small Group Questions:

Open:

- Have you ever realised something important only in hindsight?

Explore:

- Why don't the disciples recognise Jesus on the road?
- What does Jesus do before revealing himself?
- What role do Scripture and breaking bread play in their recognition?
- What does this story teach us about disappointment and hope?

Apply:

- Where might Jesus already be at work in your life, even if you don't see it yet?
- How can Scripture help you recognise God's activity more clearly?
- Who could you walk alongside in their journey of faith?

Pray:

- Ask God to open your eyes to his presence this week.

Breakfast on the Beach (John 21:1–19) - 10 May

Key Point:

Failure is not the end—Jesus **restores and recommissions**.

Small Group Questions:

Open:

- How do people typically respond to failure or regret?

Explore:

- Why do you think the disciples go back to fishing?
- What is significant about Jesus cooking breakfast for them?
- Why does Jesus ask Peter the same question three times?
- What does restoration look like in this passage?

Apply:

- Where do you carry regret or a sense of failure?
- What might Jesus be saying to you in that place?
- How could God use your past—not waste it—for his purposes?

Pray:

- Invite Jesus into places of regret and receive his restoration.

Ascension & Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1:6–11) - 17 May

Key Point:

Jesus sends us **with his presence and power**.

Small Group Questions:

Open:

- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “mission” or “calling”?

Explore:

- Why do some worship and some doubt in the same moment?
- What authority does Jesus claim, and why does it matter?
- What is the core of the Great Commission?
- Why is the promise of Jesus’ presence so crucial to the mission?

Apply:

- Where has God placed you to live out this calling?
- What fears or barriers hold you back from sharing your faith?
- What is one small, intentional step you could take this week?

Pray:

- Pray for boldness, clarity, and awareness of Jesus’ presence.