SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY APR 1

John **20** · week 20 of 21

My Lord and My God · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 1

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 20 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Mar 29
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Mar 30
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Mar 31
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 20 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Apr 1

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 20:31 · NASB**
>
> *"But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."*

One Sunday from before dawn to evening, and one more Sunday a week later. An empty tomb, a weeping woman, a locked room, a man who refuses to believe, and the reason John wrote the whole book.

John 20 *My Lord and My God*

KEY VERSE 20:31

Theme of the chapter. Jesus is risen. The grave clothes, Mary's encounter, the locked room and Thomas's confession all bear witness that the crucified Lord lives, calls His own by name, gives peace through His wounds, sends His disciples with the Spirit, and is Lord and God. John wrote so that we who have not seen may believe and have life in His name.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

Lord	**6**	vv. 2, 13, 18, 20, 25, 28
seen / saw / see	**13**	vv. 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 25 (×2), 27, 29 (×2)
believe / believed	**5**	vv. 8, 25, 29 (×2), 31
disciples	**7**	vv. 10, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 30
tomb	**9**	vv. 1 (×2), 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11 (×2)
Peace	**3**	vv. 19, 21, 26

JOHN 20:1–10 The Empty Tomb

1 OBSERVE *When did Mary Magdalene come, what did she see, and what did she tell Peter and John (20:1–2)?*

> "While it was still dark," she saw the stone already taken away. "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him" (20:2).

2 OBSERVE *What did Peter see inside the tomb (20:6–7)? What did the other disciple do (20:8)?*

> "The linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself" (20:6–7). The other disciple "saw and believed" (20:8).

3 INTERPRET *Why would the grave clothes convince John? What does 20:9 add?*

> Thieves do not unwrap a body and fold the cloths. Verse 9 says "they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead," so these were not men primed to imagine a resurrection. Henry makes that point.

JOHN 20:11–18 Mary

4 OBSERVE *Whom did Mary think Jesus was, and what made her recognize Him (20:15–16)?*

> She supposed Him to be the gardener. Jesus said, "Mary!" She turned and said, "Rabboni!" (20:16).

5 INTERPRET *Guzik: "Jesus didn't reveal Himself to Mary by telling her who He was, but by telling her who she was to Him." Read 10:3. What promise comes true here?*

> The shepherd "calls his own sheep by name." She knew Him by His voice speaking her name.

6 OBSERVE *What does Jesus tell Mary to stop doing, where does He send her, and what does she announce (20:17–18)?*

> "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren" (20:17). "I have seen the Lord" (20:18).

7 INTERPRET *Jesus says, "My Father and your Father, and My God and your God" (20:17), and calls the men who deserted Him "My brethren." What does that tell you?*

> His sonship is unique, but He shares it: what He is by nature, we become by grace. Spurgeon: "They were his brethren still, though they had forsaken him."

8 APPLY *Jesus knows your name the way He knew Mary's. What difference does it make to be known, not just to know about Him?*

> Personal. The study's promise: He knows my name.

JOHN 20:19–23 The Locked Room

9 OBSERVE *Why were the doors shut, and what did Jesus say and show when He came (20:19–20)?*

> "For fear of the Jews." He stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you," and showed them His hands and His side. "The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (20:20).

10 OBSERVE *What did Jesus send them to do, and what did He do and say next (20:21–22)?*

> "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (20:21). He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (20:22).

11 INTERPRET *The word "breathed" is the verb of Genesis 2:7. What is Jesus picturing? How does this relate to Acts 2?*

> A new creation. Some read it as a real first gift of the Spirit for their mission, with Pentecost the full outpouring; others as an acted promise fulfilled in Acts 2. The study holds firmly that Pentecost is when the Spirit came to baptize the church.

12 INTERPRET *Read 20:23. Does the church forgive sins by its own power?*

> No. "Have been forgiven" and "have been retained" are perfect passives: the church announces what God has already done. Its authority is the gospel.

13 APPLY *Jesus said "Peace be with you" to men who had abandoned Him. Who needs to hear that peace from you, and where is He sending you (20:21)?*

> Personal. The study's command: "I also send you."

JOHN 20:24–29 Thomas

14 OBSERVE *Where was Thomas, and what did he say when the others told him (20:24–25)?*

> He "was not with them when Jesus came." "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (20:25).

15 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Guzik: "Thomas didn't doubt; he plainly and strongly refused to believe." Henry: "Those know not what they lose who carelessly absent themselves." Yet Henry also says, "Thomas is not Judas." What does Thomas' story teach about missing the gathering of believers?*

> He missed the meeting and stayed in unbelief a week. Jesus came back for him anyway and met him on his own terms.

16 OBSERVE *What did Jesus say to Thomas, and what did Thomas say (20:27–28)?*

> "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing" (20:27). "My Lord and my God!" (20:28).

17 INTERPRET *Thomas' confession was "said to Him." Compare 1:1. Why does it matter that Jesus accepted it?*

> It closes the circle that began "the Word was God." Spurgeon: "a most plain and hearty confession of the true and proper Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ." A mere man would have refused it.

18 APPLY *Is your chair empty when the brothers gather? What is keeping you away?*

> Personal. The study's confession: Thomas's empty chair.

JOHN 20:30–31 The Purpose

19 OBSERVE *Why did John write this book (20:31)?*

> "These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (20:31).

20 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Sproul on 20:29: "If you're a Christian, you're included in that benediction." What does "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" mean for you?*

> The last beatitude is for every believer since. Henry: Christ calls such faith blessed because it shows more of God's grace.

21 APPLY *John's purpose was belief and life. Looking back over the whole Gospel, which sign or saying has done the most to bring you to believe?*

> Personal.

WORD STUDY

22 WORD *emphysaō (G1720), to breathe on. This word is used only in 20:22. Read Genesis 2:7 and Ezekiel 37:9. What is the risen Jesus doing?*

> God breathed life into Adam and into the dry bones. Jesus breathes on the disciples: the beginning of a new creation.

23 WORD *kyrios (G2962), Lord. Mary says, "I have seen the Lord" (20:18); Thomas says "My Lord and my God" (20:28). What does "Lord" mean on Easter?*

> Not just "sir" or "master." The risen Jesus is the Lord, God Himself.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

No episode in Seasons 1–5 covers John 20. Optional: Season 1, Episode 1, "I Have Called You by Name"

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Season 1, Episode 1 shows Mary Magdalene called by name (Isaiah 43:1). Read 20:14–16. How does Mary recognize the risen Jesus?

> When He says her name, "Mary!"

C2 OBSERVE

Read 20:30–31. Why did John write his Gospel? How does that purpose shape how we use a show like The Chosen?

> That we may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name. The written Word is the means; a drama can only point back to it.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 20 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.