

# Weekly Reflection

In our readings from John's gospel this week, we'll come across his recording of Jesus' "Great Commission" to his disciples. For certain, Matthew's "Great Commission" is probably most familiar to us, but John's witness to Jesus' commissioning is no less powerful. I would also contend that this commission is very relevant for those following Jesus today in the U.S. In John 20:19-23, Jesus comes to his disciples in a context of fear. They are huddled together in a room with the door locked. This is the very picture of fear. Many of our churches have a similar feel to them these days. Our culture seems more opposed to Christianity with each passing day, our churches have less members than they did 10 and 20 years ago, and we ourselves are often afraid of talking about and living out our faith in this environment. The result is a very similar picture to what John describes: we end up huddled together in our sanctuaries on Sunday with the "remnant," afraid to engage with the world at large. Jesus appears to his disciples with the intention of breaking their fears, and ours today, so we can be who God is calling us to be. So Jesus breaks their fear with his word of "peace." Despite the failings of the disciples, despite our failings, Jesus comes to us as one who is for us and bringing peace. Then Jesus breaks fear with his living presence. Jesus shows them his hands and side to prove that he is alive. Jesus' life turns our fear to joy because his life means life for us through faith. Jesus then breaks his disciples' fear by giving them a new mission. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." We are important to God's mission. Jesus entrusts us with this, and backs us with his grace and power to forgive and bring life to those in our communities whom God is calling. Finally, Jesus breaks his disciples' fear by giving to them his own Spirit. Jesus breathes on them and gifts them with new life in the Spirit. Following Jesus isn't defined by fear, but rather by the one who comes to us to break our fear and give us new life and new purpose. Our risen Savior is leading us outside our locked doors to join on his mission. Will we follow?

## Weekly Activity

In John 21 Jesus tells Peter three times to take good care of his people.

*Who are the people in your life Jesus is calling you to take good care of?  
Focus on doing that well this week.*

## Scripture

### Sunday:

[John 20:21](#)

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### Monday:

[John 20:1-18](#)

*How does Christ's resurrection impact your life?*

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### Tuesday:

[John 20:19-31](#)

*Where can you point people to look if they need to see God in order to believe?*

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### Wednesday:

[John 21:1-14](#)

*How does the net not being torn inspire your ministry?*

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### Thursday:

[John 21:15-19](#)

*Have you ever made mistakes like Peter? What hope does Peter being reinstated give you?*

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### Friday:

[John 21:20-25](#)

*Jesus' last words in the gospel are, "You must follow me." Is following Jesus the most important thing in your life?*

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Saturday:  
Psalm 131

Again Jesus said,  
“Peace be with you!  
As the Father has sent me,  
I am sending you.”

~ John 20:21 ~



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