

LOCKED IN

Look

Problems, fears and doubts tend to lock us into our own world and keep us from enjoying a larger more fulfilling life.

1. How has a recent fear or doubt locked you into yourself?
2. Last Sunday, churches in the south met for worship even though there was no building to worship in. They praised God in the midst of disaster and chaos. What do you think motivated them to gather?

Book - John 20:19-29

Following the torture, death and resurrection of their teacher and leader, the disciples locked themselves away in confusion, fear and doubt.

1. When Jesus appears to them despite the locked door, what are his first words? He repeats them again later. How might this be significant?
2. What mission and what power does Jesus give the disciples? Why did they need to see and encounter the resurrected Christ to hear and respond to this message?
3. Thomas is locked in doubt and must see Jesus also. How does Jesus accommodate his need? *Note the beautiful profession of faith that follows.*
4. We do not have regular visits in the flesh from Jesus but we too need to see him enough to overcome our fear and doubt. How does Jesus accommodate (or not) that need for you?

Took

Whether we are locked in by fear like the disciples, or doubt like Thomas, there are always threats to our faith and our peace.

1. What behaviors keep us locked into ourselves and out of relationship with God?
2. What inspiration do you draw from the example of those who gather in prayer and praise in the midst of death and destruction?
3. How can we unlock the door so that we can see Jesus and show him to others who also need to see him so desperately?