



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### John 20:26-31 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

#### **1. What reasons might Jesus have had for waiting until the next Sunday before He appeared to Thomas and the other disciples again?**

Jesus did everything according to His perfect timing, which was always totally unexpected. Jesus was not a spirit that could be called up at will by someone in some type of séance, which was forbidden by God in the Old Testament. Contrary to the will of God, King Saul tried to call up Samuel from the grave and it cost him his life. The disciples knew not to try to call up Jesus. The appearances of Jesus were not appearances of a ghost following efforts made by His disciples to see Him again. Waiting a week gave Thomas the opportunity to pray and think about what he had heard from those who were eyewitnesses of Jesus’ appearance to them. They probably repeated what had happened several times, but Thomas still would not believe. He had to be absolutely convinced by personally seeing Jesus as a real person before he would believe. Because Jesus appeared to Thomas as he did, we have more good reasons to believe in Jesus

#### **2. Compare these greetings in John 20:26, 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, 2 John 1:3, and Jude 1:2. What do these greetings mean to you personally?**

(John 20:26) A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

(1 Timothy 1:2) To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

(1 Timothy 1:2) To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

(2 John 1:3) Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, in truth and love.

(Jude 1:2) May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

You might receive a variety of good responses from those in your class.

### **3. Why did Jesus appear and speak to Thomas? Did Jesus achieve His purpose when He saw Thomas? How do you know?**

Jesus appeared to Thomas so he would not doubt but believe in Him. Then, Thomas could be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ even as the other disciples became good and faithful witnesses of Jesus' life, teachings, and resurrection from the dead. Yes. Thomas saw Jesus and then said, "My Lord and My God," and Jesus commended Thomas. Jesus accepted and praised Thomas' worship of Him as his Lord and God.

### **4. Why do you believe in Jesus or not believe in Jesus?**

The Bible tells me so and He lives within my heart.

### **5. How and why did John write the Gospel of John?**

How? With the help and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John made selections from among many signs He saw Jesus do. In John 20:30, John explained, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book."

Why? With the help of the Holy Spirit, John knew that many would believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior after they read what he wrote. In John 20:31 John explained, “But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” The Holy Spirit superintended John’s writing so he could write the infallible truth, and He superintends John’s readers as He opens the truth of God’s Word written to them.

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