

September 13, 2026

How God Wants You To Live (it's not what you think) (John 20:19-23)

Warmup: What do people who are not Christians think about Christianity and about Jesus? Share any stereotypes or personal experiences.

READ John 20:19-23

From this passage (and a few others) Neil preached that Jesus says part of being a Christian is to be sent by Him—the King!—with His authority to live in the power of the Holy Spirit! Do you think people who are not Christians know this?

REFLECT

- In verses 19 and 21 Jesus says, “Peace be with you.” Why do you think He says it twice? What does saying these words cause to happen in the disciples’ lives?
- Ask several people to say this scripture out loud, emphasizing different words each time:
 *“As the **FATHER** has sent **ME**, so I am sending **YOU**.”*
 *“As the Father **HAS SENT** me, so I am **SENDING** you.”*
 *“**AS** the Father has sent me, **SO** I am sending you.”*

Share what comes to mind when you hear the different emphases.

- Read Jesus’ words about forgiveness. What do you think they mean? How might they be linked to receiving the Holy Spirit?
- Thinking about KING, AUTHORITY, and POWER, ask someone in your Life Group (even the leader) to draw the triangle with the words at each corner, and then discuss the following:
 - What are the characteristics of our King?
 - What authority has He given us?
 - How do we exercise power?
- Neil will be preaching on John 20:19-23 again on September 20. As a group, come up with 1-3 questions about this scripture and have one person email them to Neil. neil.redenbaugh@covenantgrove.org

RESPOND

- Set a timer for 2 minutes and sit silently, asking the Holy Spirit to bring to mind how He wants you to respond to this scripture. Share your thoughts with the group.
- Gather in groups of 3-4, share any other prayer requests, and pray for each other.

“To transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ.”