

UNEXPECTED GIFTS

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

April 7 2024

“Unexpected Gifts”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gifts you have blessed us with. Help us to appreciate all that you have done and all that you are for us in our lives; and help us to share with others the ways you’ve blessed us. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

John 20:24-25 (NIV)

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

April 7 2024
“Unexpected Gifts”

INTRODUCTION

The hours following Jesus’ death were harrowing ones for the disciples. Everything they thought they knew suddenly seemed to be a lie. But then the unexpected happened: the tomb was empty! Even the people who should have expected this the most were seemingly caught off-guard. Jesus was alive! What a gift! Yet some needed to see Jesus for themselves to accept that gift.

An unexpected gift can be a true blessing. This week’s questions center around what the gift of Jesus’ resurrection truly means in your life – both between you and God and between you and others

QUESTIONS

1. What’s your favorite unexpected gift that you’ve ever received?
2. What unexpected gift have you received that you came to appreciate more over time?
3. When have you received a gift that, in retrospect, you have not used well? What happened? What have you learned from that experience?
4. How have you experienced the power of forgiveness, either in someone forgiving you or you offering forgiveness to someone else?
5. When Thomas was told of Jesus’ appearance to the rest of the disciples, he didn’t believe them (read John 20:24-25 (on page 1)). In the midst of the modern onslaught of mis- and dis-information, how do you make sure you’re doing due diligence to make sure something is true, but also not missing out on something important because of your own skepticism?
6. Particularly when compared to the implications of the rest of the Beatitudes (the “blessed are...” statements in Matthew 5), what does it mean that Jesus says “blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed?”

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, consider how you can bless someone with an unexpected gift.