

# Second Sunday of Easter

*“We have seen the Lord.”— John 20:25 NSRSV*

## Explore

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3 x 5 inch cards,  
pens,  
Dictionary

### Defining Witness

Hand each student a 3 x 5 inch card with “witness” written on it as they enter the classroom. Ask students to define “witness” on the back of the card. Let each student share their definition with the class. Compare the student definitions with a dictionary definition.

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### Jesus and Healing

Ask a teen to read John 20:19–31. On the first Sunday following Easter, the selected scripture describes two post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples. In each instance Jesus greeted them with the salutation, “Peace be with you.” By his presence, Jesus ministered to the fear of the disciples and in particular, the skepticism of Thomas, at the same time reminding them that “blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Bible

Review the situation in the city of Jerusalem before and after the crucifixion of Jesus. List reasons why Christ addressed the disciples with this greeting of peace. The Christian followers were fearful and in a state of confusion, not knowing what to do without their leader. Who would comfort them and tell them parables and stories and show them God’s love? The followers needed to be comforted and reassured with the peace that God could give them. There was no peace in their hearts. After Jesus arose from the dead as he said he would, he appeared to the disciples who were meeting in a room with a closed door, fearing they would be found. “Why are you troubled? Peace be with you.” Jesus returned to them bringing peace not fear. He was alive and brought this proof to his disciples. Reread and dramatize the scripture passage. Provide costuming for added effect, or have teens create the story in today’s time.

John 20:19–31

Jesus was a healer. He spent much of his ministry in restoring health and wholeness to people. Not only to those who lived 2,000 years ago, but to others down through the centuries. Others have testified to the hope and wholeness he brings to their lives. When a person has hope, a purpose for loving, and inner peace with God, the elements that produce health function to bring wholeness. This is a form of the redemptive ministry Jesus brought as he reconciled people to God. The presence of peace Jesus brought to the disciples restored their hope and gave them strength later as they carried his message to others.

### Thomas

Ask: “Have any of you experienced a moment when you identified with Thomas, and you’ve said, ‘I’ll have to see it to believe it’?” The message found in the story of Thomas is that we really don’t have to see and feel the wounds of Jesus to believe. That physical contact is not necessary. We can benefit from generations of witnesses, ‘We can’t physically return to that event that happened more than two thousand years ago, but we can experience the same presence and passion of those first disciples who carried with them the Holy Spirit and shared the story of the risen Christ. They told others, who told others, and still others. Can you imagine two thousand years of witnessing the same story? Try this brainstorming activity on the paper provided. Write your name at the top center of the page. Below it, write the names of two people with whom you could share your testimony. Below their names, write two names each—people you know they know. Below those names, draw two blanks for each. How many potential opportunities are there to witness in this diagram?

In our commissioning to be witnesses, we are called to greet everyone in peace, open the doorway for others to discover that Jesus is the Christ, and live life as a disciple. Looking at your diagram on the paper, write a goal statement for yourself. How many people can you witness to this week?

paper, pens

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## Experience

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### Witness-The Peace of Christ

Ask teens to define “peace” on a 3x5-inch index card. Share the definitions with the class, always allowing the opportunity to pass if an individual feels uncomfortable in responding. Possible definitions might include non-warring, period of time without war, state of harmony, agreement between people such as a treaty, freedom from strife, silence, calmness.

index cards, pens,  
newsprint, Doctrine  
and Covenants

### Where and How Does Peace Begin?

Where does peace start and how? What determines a peaceful person? James Allen, in *As A Man Thinketh*, suggests peaceful people understand themselves, have self-control, can be self-governed, and work well with others. The peaceful person is more successful and can use the sense of peace for good. Usually that person is respected by others.

*Priesthood Manual*,  
guest

God’s peace makes us hopeful and fearless. It is a peace greater than the world knows. How can we find this peace, live a life of peace, and share God’s peace with others? How can we maintain peace during stressful times? Peace starts with each individual. The attitudes we display to others witness of our inner peace. Others are able to see the peace and the presence of God in us if it is there. List possible ways to find God’s peace—taking a walk, scripture study, conflict resolution, administration. Read about the duties of the office of the teacher from Doctrine and Covenants 17:11 and the *Priesthood Manual*. Invite a priesthood member who holds that office to share with the class about the responsibilities of peacemaking.

### Become a Peacemaker

Select one of these ideas or design one of your own.

Organize a Young Peacemaker’s Club in your community. If there is already one in your area, ask how you can help.

In your congregation, organize a study group on stress management. Contact a specialist to visit your group.

Read about and try several forms of meditation. Invite people of all ages to practice meditation skills weekly.

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## Expand

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### Practicing Your Witness of Peace

A testimony is sharing your understanding of a situation. In a religious sense, it is sharing what you believe about Jesus Christ and why. Like the first disciples, we are called to share our witness. Jesus said the following:

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”—John 20:21 NRSV

When our lives have been touched by Christ and blessed by the Holy Spirit, we feel the urgency to tell others. Let students share their testimonies, their experiences of Jesus Christ in their lives, with the class. Close with a prayer asking for opportunities to witness.

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**Lectionary scriptures**—Acts 2:14 a, 22–32; Psalm 16; I Peter 1:3–9;  
John 20:19–31; I Nephi 5:103–112; Doctrine and Covenants 157:11–12