

Bible Chat notes week starting 28 5 23

John 20: 19 - 23

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

1. What does the Holy Spirit mean to you? Share your understandings, uncertainties, positive feelings and misgivings alike!
2. Jesus seems to give the Holy Spirit through this intimate action of breathing on them. What meanings about the Holy Spirit is this intended to convey?
3. Why does Jesus repeat the statement: 'Peace be with you'? Does the first half of verse 20 speak of peace? What about verse 23? Discuss the link between the intimate presence of the Spirit within us and the making of peace.
4. Is this the Spirit of Jesus or the Spirit of God? See how Paul handles this language in Romans 8:9.
5. The disciples are given a mission here. What can we learn about it from verse 21?
6. And what can we learn of their mission from verse 23?
7. Do we have a comparable mission? If so, how do we put it into practice?
8. Pray for one another to receive more of the presence of God's Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Jesus.