INTRODUCTION
The crucifixion of Christ and his Resurrection are the central events of the New Testament, and they form the basis of our faith. In this lesson, we will examine the Resurrection account in John's Gospel to understand how it challenges our beliefs and shapes our understanding of God.

LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 01 Dec 2013 John 12. Serve Humbly
2) 08 Dec John 13. Stay Open and Obedient
3) 15 Dec John 14. Believe Exclusively
5) 29 Dec John 15:1-25. Depend on the Spirit
6) 05 Jan 2014 John 15:26 – 16:33. Honor Jesus
7) 12 Jan John 17. Value Every Life
8) 19 Jan Psalm 139.管网Every Life
10) 02 Feb John 18:28-40; 19:1-16. Our King - Condemned
11) 09 Feb John 19:17-42. Our Savior - Crucified
12) 16 Feb John 20. Live in Resurrection Power
13) 23 Feb John 21. Follow with Renewed Purpose

John 20:1-4
Everybody is Running to and from the Tomb
- v1. Mary came to the tomb while it was still dark. Do you think she was up all night? Her courage was amazing, considering she would probably be finding Roman soldiers guarding the tomb – at night & alone.
- v2. After Mary Magdelene saw the stone moved away, and no guards, she RAN to get Peter and John.
- vv3-4. Peter & John RAN to the tomb to check it out.
- Do you think they were frantic, nervous, perplexed, scared, doubting, all of the above?
- It was a good thing there were no TV cameras, cell phones, computers, radios, social media, and the internet around at that time. The resurrection story would’ve truly been twisted and distorted beyond imagination and recognition. God thinks of everything!

Who’s Afraid of the Unknown?
- v5. John, “the other disciple,” hesitated going into the tomb for some unknown reason, possibly a little afraid and wanted to wait for backup.
- v6. Peter, sometimes a bull in a china shop, catches up to John and marches in to check it out.
- Is it OK to be like Peter – bold and reckless; or like John, overly cautious?
- vv8-9. John saw & believed, but v9 says they did not understand the Scripture that Christ must rise again from the dead. What John believed, then, was Mary’s report of the Lord’s body being gone.
- But why were the Disciples blind to the Scripture, especially when Jesus plainly told them numerous times that He must undergo suffering and death, and He would rise again after three days?
- Aren’t we the same way when people tell us things that are beyond our comprehension at first (like calculus) until we get to a point when it sinks in and we finally GET IT! It just takes time.
- Thank God for His patience with all of us.

20:19-30
Mary to the Rescue Again
- v22. Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” – possibly rending some first-fruits of the more copious Pentecostal outpouring noted in Acts 2.
- v27. Doubting Thomas was told to check out the facts.
- v29. Blessed are those who believe w/out all the facts.
- vv30-31. Jesus possibly performed more than 100,000 healings and miracles over 3 years. John records 7 unique ones, which is plenty to make a sound decision.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS
We must realize God gave us all we needed to know about the Lord’s resurrection for our faith to stand firm, and He provided sufficient wiggle room for those who do not want to believe to continue in their unbelief.

NEXT WEEK: John 21. Final miracle and remarks by Jesus leaves a lasting impression on his followers.