

John 20 — He Saw and Believed

John 20:8 (with 20:1–10 · 20:9 · 11:44) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

In John 20, on resurrection morning, Peter and John run to the tomb — and John slows the story way down over one detail: the grave cloths. The linen cloths are lying there, and the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head is **“folded up in a place by itself.”** Think about what that rules out. Grave robbers don't unwrap a body, and they certainly don't fold the laundry. The tomb isn't ransacked — it's orderly, deliberate, like someone left on his own terms. Compare Lazarus: he came out of his tomb still bound in his grave clothes, raised to die again. Jesus left his behind — he's done with grave clothes forever. And John says of himself, **“he saw and believed”** — and then makes an honest admission in the very next verse: “as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.” John believed at the tomb before he understood the Bible's own witness; the understanding caught up later. The tomb itself was preaching before anyone else did.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **John 11:44** and **John 20:6–8** side by side, and write down every difference between how Lazarus leaves his tomb and how Jesus leaves his — who comes out wrapped, who leaves the wrappings behind, what needs to be done for each. Then sit with **John 20:9**: John says they believed before they yet understood “the Scripture.” Go find that Scripture — read **Psalms 16:10**, then **Acts 2:25–31**, where Peter preaches exactly that verse about the resurrection. Finally, notice the three lookings in **John 20:5–8**: John glances in, Peter examines, John sees and believes. Ask which of the three describes how you've been reading this Gospel.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 20:8–9 · 11:44 · 2:19–22 · 19:40–41

Other Gospels: Luke 24:12 · Matthew 28:11–15

Rest of Scripture: Psalm 16:10 · Acts 2:25–31 · 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Peter and John at the Tomb of Jesus

Tabletalk — Ligonier Ministries

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/peter-and-john-at-the-tomb-of-jesus>

Short devotional on John 20:1–10 — why the grave cloths point to resurrection rather than grave robbery, ending where the text ends: John saw and believed.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 20

J.C. Ryle — GraceGems

<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j20.htm>

Ryle walks through the whole chapter, including verses 1–10 — the evidence of the empty tomb and the disciple who “saw and believed.”

An Almost Empty Tomb

Joshua S. Hill — The Gospel Coalition (Australia)

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/almost-empty-tomb/>

On the one thing left behind in the tomb — the linen cloths and the folded face cloth — and why they show resurrection, not resuscitation.