

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 1-6, 2024

“RESURRECTION SUNDAY”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Are you a morning person? Why or why not?

GROUP DISCUSSION

We look at several episodes after the resurrection. As group facilitator, feel free to choose which ones to discuss with the group. You do not have to go through them all.

1. What do you think were on the minds of those who went to the tomb that Sunday morning? When they saw the empty tomb, why do you think they were not able to connect this to Jesus' previous statements (cf. Mark 8:31-32; 9:30-31; 10:32-34; John 20:9)?
2. Go through the experience of Mary Magdalene on that Sunday morning (John 20:10-18) and how Jesus revealed himself to her. How does her reaction reflect the confusion and sorrow she felt at the apparent loss of Jesus' body?
3. What does Jesus commission her to do with that joy and the good news of his resurrection? What is the first thing she says to the disciples in John 20:18? Why do love, joy, and affection always lead to telling? What examples of this can you think of in your life?
4. Reflect on the journey of the two disciples to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Why do you think they were leaving Jerusalem, and what might have been going through their minds as they walked and talked together?
5. How did these two disciples respond to encountering Jesus? How does their enthusiasm for sharing the good news challenge us to boldly proclaim the risen Christ in our own lives?
6. Jesus met the disciples while they were out fishing (John 21:1-19). How did Peter respond when he realized it was Jesus? What did Jesus do to restore Peter? What impact do you think this had on Peter?

NEXT STEPS

“Resurrection means the worst thing is never the last thing.” (Frederick Buechner)

- ☐ I will live with confidence in the reality of Jesus' victory of sin and death.
- ☐ I will celebrate Jesus' resurrection and worship him.
- ☐ I will take every opportunity to share the good news of the resurrection with others.
- ☐ I will walk in the freedom that comes from knowing that I am forgiven, redeemed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a joyful heart that celebrates Jesus' death and resurrection!
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

April 1	John 20:1-10
April 2	John 20:11-18
April 3	John 20:19-29
April 4	Luke 24:1-12
April 5	Luke 24:13-35
April 6	Matthew 28:16-20
April 7	Acts 1:1-11