

### **Jesus' Influence**

- Mark's dramatic and abrupt ending— "they were afraid" (Mk. 16:8)—shocks us into reexamining the profundity of Jesus' life.
- The way we value humility, integrity, generosity, and love in the world today can be traced back to Jesus' tectonic influence.
- Many of our personal lives have likewise been transformed by Jesus Christ.
- Easter, like a beautiful sunset, is a time to experience the beauty and glory of what God has done—rather than try to explain it.

### **Ephesians 2**

- Paul is one of the best at describing what Jesus has accomplished.
- Ephesians chapter 2 verse 1 recounts the beginning of the story: God made a good creation but humanity chose its own way.
- Choosing to be apart from the God of life inevitably leads to death.
- Sin is not just being bad morally. It's missing the point of being human.
- Verses 4-5 describe how God brought us back from the dead when he raised Jesus Christ.
- Jesus' death reminds us of how creating always costs something.
- Verse 8 reminds us that salvation is a gift. Christianity is not about what we can do for God, but what God has done for us.
- Verse 10 describes us as God's masterpieces, created to put our lives on display as beautiful examples of God's work in the world.
- The movement is from death to life, from the old to the new (Col. 3:10), it's not just about being rescued but being renewed to serve a purpose.
- When God looks upon us he says we are a masterpiece!

### **3 Easter Thoughts**

1. If you don't call yourself a Christian, or you are just checking Jesus out, dig deeper. This is good news, so consider it.
2. For some, Easter may feel difficult. It is appropriate to long for heaven, to long for Jesus' return, at Easter. His renewing work will reach its climax at his return.
3. Join Jesus in renewing the world! Receive the blessing and then be a blessing. God paints us as his masterpiece and then gives us the brush to join him painting.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What has Easter meant to you in the past? How have you thought about it?
- How have you witnessed or experienced the influence of Jesus?
- In what ways is sin missing the point of being human?
- How has joining Jesus in the great renewal project of the world looked for you? In work? Family? Everyday life?