



### **Part Two: Empty Tomb**

On Good Friday, Jesus was mocked, stripped, beaten and crucified. His mission and message were overpowered and rejected. It seemed like all hope was gone. But what looked like defeat on Friday turned to victory on Sunday.

**Scripture:** John 19:12-21, Matthew 28:1-6

**Bottom Line:** Good Friday depicts the cross as defeat. The resurrection proves it to be victory.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Reflect on Easter weekend. If you were at Westside for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, what things were meaningful for you that you experienced? Are there things you learned or were encouraged by? What parts of your Easter celebrations were meaningful to you? Why?
2. Read the story in John 19:1-21. In what way is Jesus treated by Pilate/the soldiers? How is he treated by the Jewish religious leaders? Why do you think each had such hostility towards Jesus?
3. If Jesus is supposed to be the king, what does the crucifixion say about his kingship? How does the resurrection illuminate his ability and character as king?
4. What are some of the things that bring into question whether or not Jesus is powerfully reigning in our world? Are there things about this world that cause you to lose hope? What about in your life specifically?
5. In verse 15 some people pledge allegiance to their enemy (Caesar) rather than accept Jesus as king. What does it mean to make Jesus king in our lives? What other things are you tempted to treat as the ultimate authority in your life?

### **Moving Forward**

The resurrection of Jesus is an emphatic statement of victory over sin and death. Talk about how you see this principle working out in practical ways throughout daily life. How can we live in constant awareness and appreciation of this fact? In what ways does the resurrection motivate and empower you to share the good news with others? (Matthew 28:16-20)