

Small Group Outline for April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

What a week it has been: Triumphal Entry to Jesus Crucifixion, and now to Sunday
He is Risen... He is Risen indeed!

Lots of people try to discount the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our Christian faith. No other founder of any other faith has died and risen from the dead.

What are some of the wrong beliefs about no Resurrection?

What are some of the good reasons that the Resurrection actually happened?

We should realize that no one wanted to make up this story. After the death of Jesus, all His followers were despondent. No one thought He would rise from the dead. The Religious leaders were glad to have Jesus dead. And the Devil was certainly excited too!

Though Jesus had talked about rising from the dead, no one thought anything more of it. Except for the religious leaders who wanted some guards at the tomb in case someone would come to steal Jesus body and claim a resurrection.

The disciples were all hiding in fear of also being arrested.

John 19:38-42 The Burial of Jesus:

Discuss: did anyone believe Jesus was going to rise from the dead?

What does the acts of preparing Jesus' body for burial say about their faith?

A Journey of Faith - Nicodemus

- John 2:23-25 Jesus knew what was in each person's heart
- John 3:1-9
 - John 7:45-52
 - John 12:42-43
- Let's not be so hard on Nicodemus, we have all doubted at times, and when hard times comes, we waver too, don't we?

Share about how you may have had to journey towards Jesus and believing in Him.

How is your journey like or unlike Nicodemus?

Discuss: Are we patient with others who take time to believe in Jesus?

Pause and pray for those whom you are impatient about coming to Jesus.

A Journey in Doubt

John 20:29: "Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me."

Discuss: Why are we blessed? Write a list...

Consider these verses:

- Matthew 28:20
- Hebrews 2:14
- John 20:29-31

Weekly Reflection

1. Read Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21
2. Do the research on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ:
 - Kirk Durston
 - Josh MacDowell
 - Lee Strobel
3. Talk with someone about your doubts and questions about Jesus, Church, Faith
4. Consider and pray about what steps you could take to deepen your faith:
 - Bible Reading
 - Small Group
 - Regular Church attendance
 - Courage to share your faith someone. "What do you think of Easter?"

1 Peter 1:8

**You love Him even though you have never seen Him.
Though you do not see him now, you trust Him;
and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.**