

Sermon Study Guide (April 9, 2023)

This Week: Risen

Series: Easter Sunday

Passage: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-53

BIG IDEA: Christian Courage is fully trusting that God is with you.

LOOK BACK:

Take some time asking how the week was in the lives of people in your life group.

Group Discussion: What was your Easter like? What was the best thing about the weekend? What were the challenges for you?



APPETIZER

1. **Today we're going to do a lot of reading, which means we need to listen carefully.** Have 3 different readers read the passages from the 3 Gospels mentioned above.
2. **Question:** What do you notice about the passages? What do you notice about the response of the different people that were in contact with Jesus?



MAIN COURSE: LEARN TOGETHER

1. **Group discussion.** Resurrection is the central message of almost every sermon in the New Testament. When we talk about the good news, we often say things like, "The good news is that we go to heaven when we die." There is nothing wrong with this statement per say, except that the disciples didn't actually preach it. They preach resurrection. Why do you think this was so important for them to preach? Where does resurrection fit into our sense of the good news? What does it mean for us today?
2. **Discussion.** Two points from Sunday's message about resurrection to discuss: (1) Resurrection means that Jesus is alive today. In this world, and (2) We get to live out the resurrection. **If Jesus is alive today in this world, and resurrection means that he conquered the powers of sin, what does the presence of Jesus do to the powers of sin that we still see in this world today? And, what does it mean to you for us to "live the resurrection?" How do we respond to the truth that "eternal life begins now"?**
3. **Question:** Jeff mentioned on Sunday that it's not good news for tyrants and bullies to hear that someone has come back from the dead. **Why do you think he said that? Why would that be true?**

4. **Discussion:** The point was made that one of the remarkable aspects of the resurrection is that it doesn't simply speak to "life after death" but "rising from the dead." What is the distinction between these two concepts? **Do you think it is important for Christians to put a bit more thought as to how "rising from the dead" fits into the gospel more than "life after death?" Why or why not? The big question: what is the hope for Christians when it comes to facing death, according to the Bible?**



DESSERT: LIVE FORWARD

Challenge: It was argued that most of the symbols for Easter are about new life. But the pastor mentioned that a butterfly is a great image of Easter because it is a picture of not only new life, but a DIFFERENT new life.

What is different about your life in Christ because of Easter?

If there was someone standing in front of you asking you why you're a Christian and what difference does it make, how would you describe your "Metamorphosis" to them? Encourage one another to look for opportunities this week to talk about their different new life to others.