

Growth Groups Lesson

April 16 & 17

Easter: Luke 24

Spend some time praying with your group and ask for help in seeing and applying His Word. Review and reflect on the prayer requests given the previous week. Give the Lord praise for the answers to your group's prayers.

Big Idea: Jesus dies to pay the penalty for our sin, but is resurrected to show His power over sin and death. He gives us new life through the Spirit, and demonstrates and validates His claims of being the divine Messiah.

He is Risen! Celebrating and remembering Easter is our greatest joy as followers of Jesus. It is the day that gives us the hope of new life with Jesus, as He has defeated the power of sin and death. His sacrifice on Good Friday is fully satisfied in the resurrection. Jesus also ascends to the right hand of the Father, and is given all authority. We receive the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, so that Jesus may remain in the world through His church.

1. How do you like to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus? What are some family traditions that you have?
2. What does Easter mean for you personally?
3. How do you share the good news that Jesus is alive with others?

Read Luke 24:1-12

4. Who are the first people to witness the resurrection and tell others? Why is that surprising?
5. Though Jesus previously told the disciples what happened, they did not remember or understand His teaching about His death and resurrection. Why didn't they remember or believe the women? **Luke 9:22, 43-45**
6. Is it hard to ask God difficult questions like this? What would keep you from asking Him these questions?

Read Luke 24:13-50

Once again, Jesus appears to others who are not the eleven disciples (Judas no longer being counted in the twelve). They were kept from recognizing Jesus, but were amazed at His teaching, as their "hearts burned within them as He spoke."

7. What does Jesus reveal about the Messiah to these people? **Verses 25-27**
8. What does the Bible teach about the Messiah, His death, and His resurrection? **Read Genesis 3:15, Numbers 21:8-9, Deuteronomy 18:18, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Psalm 16, Hebrews 2:5-18**

9. Why were these mysteries hidden to all the Jewish people that Jesus came into contact with during His ministry? **Matthew 13:10-17, Eph. 4:17-19**
10. Why couldn't His own followers recognize Him? **Verse 21**
11. Sometimes we impose our own views and agendas onto Jesus, making it hard for us to see and hear Him. What are some occasions in your life where you had trouble recognizing Jesus working in your life? How did He reveal Himself to you?
12. How were your views of Jesus corrected?

When we ask for help during trials, He will always give us what we need to help us trust Him. **James 1:5-8** tells us that if we ask for wisdom in faith, we will always be given what we need.

13. In our passage, What things did Jesus give or do for the disciples to believe Him?
14. Why will the disciples continue to need help in trusting Jesus?
15. Is it easy for you to ask for help? Why or why not?
16. What help do you need to ask for, trusting Jesus to provide?
17. Jesus has given you a community of believers in this group to help you trust Him. How can your group help you this week? How can you help others in your group?

Jesus gives His disciples a new mission to be witnesses for Him, and will soon give them the power to accomplish this mission through the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit, we get to experience the new spiritually resurrected life now, and even more so when Jesus returns. This new life is characterized by relational intimacy with God, the help and comfort of the Holy Spirit, the mission given by Jesus, and more.

18. Are you experiencing this new life? What has that looked like for you lately?
19. How will you share the good news that Jesus is risen?
20. Who is the Holy Spirit leading you to share with?

End the evening in thanksgiving and praise for Jesus' resurrection!