

Growth Group Lesson

April 8 & 9

Jesus Resurrected - Matthew 27:62-28:20

Spend some time praying with your group. Ask God for help in knowing him and experiencing the new life that Jesus has purchased for us through his death and resurrection.

Get to know one another:

1. What is your favorite story to tell people? Why is it your favorite?

Last Week: Jesus is killed on the cross, in accordance with the Scriptures, as the sacrificial lamb. He takes on the wrath of the Father in our place so that we can be reconciled to him.

Read Matthew 27:62-28:8

2. Place yourself in the sandals of these women. What do you imagine this scene was like for them? What did they see, feel, and experience?
 - a. What must it have been like to see Jesus die?
 - b. What must it have been like to now know that he is alive and is even greeting them personally?
3. What does he tell these women to do? Why is that significant?
 - a. Why is it significant that the first people to see him after the resurrection are women?

Read 1 Corinthians 15 (everyone will want to turn there for the next questions)

4. If Jesus was not resurrected, is there a point to our faith in Jesus? **Verses 14-19**
5. What do we gain from Jesus' resurrection? **Verses 21-22, Romans 8:10-11**
6. What does Jesus have power over? **John 11:17-27, Colossians 2:9-15**
7. How does having hope in your own resurrection affect how you live your life now? In what current life situation can you apply this hope this week?

Read Matthew 28:11-15

8. Compare and contrast the response of the women and the soldiers.
 - a. Why did they choose differently than the women?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus' Great Commission is both for his disciples and us. Jesus offers the same choice that the women and the soldiers have: "What will you do with the good news that Jesus is alive?"

9. So...what will you do with the message that Jesus is alive?
 - a. Who do you know that needs to hear this message?
 - b. When will you tell them this good news?
10. Is there anyone in your life that God is calling you to disciple and train to walk in the new life we have in Jesus?
11. What is your reaction to Jesus' statement at the end of verse 20?

Spend some time praying.

- Praise God for the new life that he has given us through Jesus' resurrection.
- Ask God for opportunities to encourage one another to live out of this new life.
- Ask God for opportunities to share this good news with others and the courage and wisdom to do it!