



EASTER SUNDAY: HE'S ALIVE, NOW I'M ALIVE

Brian Coles
April 5, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Because Of Christ** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **Death Was Arrested** (*North Point*)
- **Hosanna** (*Hillsong Worship*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. Matthew 28:1-8
2. Romans 8:1-11

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by thanking God for the resurrection of Jesus and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share one way your life has changed since you came to faith in Christ or describe a moment when the reality of Jesus' resurrection became especially meaningful to you.

Sermon Overview

Matthew 28:1-8 and Romans 8:1-11

Have someone read these passages aloud before beginning the discussion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Part 1: The Reality of the Resurrection

1. Why does it matter that Jesus is alive? According to the sermon, what does His resurrection verify about everything He said?
2. Pastor Brian shared the story of Nikolai Bukharin's failed attempt to convince people to reject Christianity. Despite his eloquent arguments, the people responded with "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" What does this story reveal about the power of personal faith versus intellectual arguments?
3. Review the evidence for the resurrection mentioned in the sermon:
 - Public execution and guarded tomb
 - Empty grave
 - 500+ eyewitnesses
 - Transformed apostles willing to die
 - Changed day of worship for Jewish believers

Which piece of evidence is most compelling to you personally? Why?

Part 2: Personal Transformation

4. Pastor Brian said, "We don't do the right things so we can be right with Him; because of Jesus, we are right with Him, and so we do the right things." How does this perspective differ from a rule-based or performance-based faith? How does it change your daily walk with God?
5. Romans 8:5-6 contrasts the "mind of the flesh" with the "mind of the Spirit." What are some practical examples of each in everyday life? What does it look like to "set your mind on the things of the Spirit"?
6. The sermon used the analogy of a radio station being "off by just one channel" needing only a "1/4 turn" to get clarity. For those who may be close to faith but haven't fully committed, what might that "1/4 turn" look like?

Part 3: Living in Resurrection Power

7. Romans 8:11 says, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit." What does it mean to have resurrection power living inside you? How should this affect the way you face challenges, struggles, or even mundane daily tasks?

8. Pastor Brian mentioned that "life is just really simple" when we focus on gratitude and belief. What are some simple truths or practices (like being grateful for water, heat, food) that help you stay grounded in faith?
9. The sermon emphasized that Jesus changes our hearts, not just our behavior. Share an example of how God has changed your heart about something (an attitude, relationship, habit, etc.).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Write these down or have someone read them aloud:

- The resurrection of Jesus verifies that everything He said is true—about hope, freedom, purpose, heaven, and eternal life.
- We are not saved by following rules but by a real relationship with the living Christ who changes our hearts.
- The evidence for the resurrection is substantial—from historical records to transformed lives.
- Because Jesus is alive, we are alive—freed from condemnation and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- We live "in the Spirit" rather than "in the flesh" when we set our minds on God's will and purpose.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Gratitude Practice:** Each day, identify three simple blessings (like water, heat, or food) and thank God specifically for them, recognizing His provision in your life.
2. **Mind Check:** When you catch yourself thinking negative, anxious, or sinful thoughts, pause and intentionally "set your mind on the things of the Spirit." Replace the thought with scripture, prayer, or worship.
3. **Share Your Story:** Tell at least one person this week how Jesus has changed your life. It could be a friend, family member, coworker, or even someone you meet casually.

4. **Spirit-Led Living:** Identify one area where you've been living "according to the flesh" (controlled by sinful nature or worldly thinking). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you surrender that area and live differently this week.
5. **Study the Evidence:** Read one of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, or John 20-21) and journal about what stands out to you.

Reflection & Prayer Requests

Personal Reflection (2-3 minutes of silence):

- In what area of your life do you most need to experience the resurrection power of Jesus right now?
- What is one specific way you can live differently this week because "He's alive, now I'm alive"?

Share & Pray:

- Share prayer requests related to today's discussion
- Pray for each other, specifically asking God to help each person live in the freedom and power of the resurrection

Closing Prayer

Close by declaring together: "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Then pray, thanking God for the gift of resurrection life and asking Him to help your group live as people who are truly alive in Christ.