

EASTER

MARCH 31

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

Introduction

Happy Easter! We hope your holiday was a great opportunity to remember the joy and reality of Jesus' resurrection and for time with your loved ones (and maybe even some candy!). It can be easier than we'd like to admit for the truth of the Easter message to get lost in the busyness of our daily lives. Together we stopped to learn and be reminded of what Jesus' resurrection means for us.

Discussion

1. What did you do to celebrate Good Friday and Easter this year? Who did you spend the holiday with? Did you take part in any traditions or do something new? What was the experience like? Take some time to share with your group.
2. Before hearing this year's Easter message, how many times a day did you think about Jesus' resurrection? Or, how many times do you think about Jesus in general? How did this question make you feel? If Jesus isn't often on your mind, what are you thinking about instead?
3. **Revisit and read Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:9-12, and John 20:24-25.** Thankfully, these stories in Scripture can sound a lot like our own – Jesus' resurrection was met with more confusion than celebration. How are you viewing Jesus' resurrection right now? As simply a historical event? As reality or just a story? Are you confused or have doubts? Do you feel like you need more facts or proof, or are you confident and clear? Share your thoughts and feelings about this with your group.
4. **Revisit and read John 4:14.** Jesus lived **miraculously** and loved **indiscriminately** so that you might believe God sent him **purposefully**: to save the world **completely**. His resurrection proves that he really is the Son of God – he did what only he could do (and what no one else can do) in defeating the grave through a sinless life. How does his resurrection redefine the significance of his actions and sacrifice? How does this understanding shape your perception of Easter?

Application

- **Rest in the resurrection.** Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can trust that he's done all that's required to be loved by and present with God now. Find time this week to take a deep breath and enjoy this reality.
- **Celebrate the resurrection.** It's the best story and news in the world. Say a prayer of thankfulness, talk about it, have a fun meal, (maybe even dance), as you find or rediscover joy in reality of the resurrection.
- **Remember the resurrection.** Don't let this truth takes center stage just this week. Keep discovering how you can integrate the truth of the resurrection into your life. Create reminders and build a muscle of recognizing this truth in and through your life.