



# LEADER'S NOTES

## Proving the Resurrection

### *Matthew 28*

**QUESTION 1** allows your group to discuss the resurrection of Jesus in the Book of Matthew. Only the first segment was recapped, but please don't rush this segment. Feel free to add in the rest of Matthew 28 and discuss as well. You can discuss the details of the earthquake and darkness, the appearance of an angel, or perhaps even the 'fake news' offered by the religious believers and bribable soldiers. You can also discuss the accuracy of the final segment mentioning only 11 disciples instead of 12.

**QUESTION 2** guides us to recall and discuss some of the many different eyewitness accounts to Jesus' resurrection. I think many Christians sometimes struggle with how powerful their own account of Jesus can be. We are called to spread the Gospel to all nations. A highly effective method includes sharing personal testimonies. While of course none of us were alive to see Jesus walk the earth, I have no doubt you have all experienced His presence, love, and power in wonderful, emotional, and memorable ways. As your group shares, please help them to remember that they have a powerful testimony. Just like the original followers of Jesus.

**QUESTION 3** works to help group members discuss and remember some of the factual statements from the sermon. It serves as a reminder of just how much evidence we really have that supports the New Testament. Benjamin Warfield, a theologian and scholar, said, "If we compare the present state of the New Testament text with that of any other ancient writing, we must declare it to be marvelously correct. Such has been the care with which the New Testament was copied. A care which has doubtless grown out of true reverence for its holy words. The New Testament is unrivaled among ancient writings in the purity of its text as actually transmitted and kept in use." Please feel free to share this quote and to encourage your group to discuss ways this information could help them when answering questions from non-believers.

**QUESTION 4** showcases how Pastor Dan attempted to bring this whole sermon back from a cerebral lecture style speech to a more spiritual style sermon. I do think sometimes Christians rely too much on the emotional side of relationship and not as much on the intellectual/scholastic side of being in relationship with Christ. It's important that we find a healthy balance between the two. That line of balance will most likely be drawn in different locations for different group members. If possible, this may be a good time to remind or help group members remember that the most effective witness would include that healthy balance of intellectual fact based sharing, and emotional/spiritual experience-based sharing.