



Small Group Discussion Guide

Not in a group? Email us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite Easter candy? Do you love Peeps or hate them?

Instructions: If your group meets bi weekly, answer questions 1 & 3.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19. Pastor Tom explained that Jesus' resurrection declares that Christianity is real. What does this passage say about believers if the resurrection were not true? How does this impact the way you think about the resurrection? What are some evidences of the resurrection that Pastor Tom outlined in his message? Have you heard any others? Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. What evidence of the resurrection is given here?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. Since Jesus did rise, he has brought us hope. Hope for what? How does this hope effect your life? How does Jesus' victory over sin and death affect the way we live today?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:32. Pastor Tom explained that because of the resurrection, death no longer reigns supreme. It is not followed by "The End", but with "To Be Continued". How can this understanding of death influence the way believer lives their life? How might the goals in the life of a Christ-follower differ from those who believe that death is the end?
4. Read Mark 16:2-3. Pastor Tom explained that the stone was rolled away so we could look in and see He is risen. How does the empty tomb demonstrate that God can be trusted? Today, the rolled away stone can also give hope to a lost and confused culture that their stones of fear, disappointment, doubt, hurt, and emptiness also can roll away. How should this effect how we interact with the people in our lives?

Save the Date!

The Art of Marriage Workshop is coming Friday, April 22nd and Saturday, April 23rd. Plan now to attend!

Registration & additional info at

www.myriversidechurch.com/workshop



MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Who Moved the Stone?” - Week of March 20th, 2016



“Who Moved the Stone?”

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

MESSAGE NOTES

...the main way we engage the culture without _____ the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in relationships (with God and others).

Note I Corinthians 15:1-4

To engage the culture without losing the gospel has to include our p_____ of a risen Lord and Savior.

Jesus' resurrection declares that:

1. Christianity is _____

What transformed a group of fearful deserters into a team of fearless witnesses that took the gospel to the b_____ of the ancient world?

It was the fact that Jesus was alive that energized and compelled the miraculous growth of the early Church from an _____ sect of 120 followers in an upper room in Jerusalem building to the largest and most historically influential faith in world history.

Note I Corinthians 15:14

Is someone could have produced the _____ of Jesus...He would have been proved a liar and that the Christian faith had been built on falsehood (note I Corinthians 15:15).

But for 2000 years the fact of the resurrection has stood the test of time, _____ investigations, and huge amounts of historical and scientific research (note I Corinthians 15:5-8).

No one would have paid the price the apostles and early Christ-followers paid for a _____.

2. Sin and Death _____

Note I Corinthians 15:3-4

If Jesus had stayed dead, either He was not the sinless person people thought...or His efforts to _____ for the sins of the world had failed (note I Corinthians 15:17).

Note I Corinthians 15:26

...the one invincible terror...Death (for the believer) is not falling asleep in Christ and waking up to see His smile of welcome into the Father's house...if Christ turns out to be nothing more than a dead _____. (Prior)

Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, death no longer _____ supreme.

It is not followed by “The _____”, but with “To Be C_____”.

Sin and death, the greatest enemies of the human race, are now fangless and clawless beasts that still may roar, but for the genuine follower of Jesus, they no longer dominate and destroy because “_____”.

3. Life is Worth Living

If Jesus never rose from the dead, then the followers of Jesus are the most _____ collection of people that can be found (note I Corinthians 15:19)

Note I Corinthians 15:32

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead”, and because of that, the Christian life is the _____ and most meaningful life that can be experienced...because:

- God never _____ anything.
- Our life now is but a _____ to eternity.

“When we allow God to “Re-New” us personally and as a church, we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- We live in a culture where fear is ever-present, where disappointment and discouragement is all too common, where skepticism p_____ nearly everything, and where conflict and a lack of love seem normal.
- Note Mark 16:2-3
- _____ rolled the stone away so we could look in and see He is risen.
- The stone was rolled away so a lost and confused _____ could have their stones of fear, disappointment, doubt, hurt, and emptiness also rolled away.
- The stone was rolled away to show everyone that Jesus is Lord, that He's the way, the truth, and the life, that every word He has said is true and every promise He has made will be fulfilled, and that no matter what our circumstances are, God can be _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too! And invite someone to Easter weekend!



"Who Moved the Stone?"

[Sr. Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

the main way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in relationships (with God and others).

Note 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

To engage the culture without losing the gospel has to include our proclamation of a risen Lord and Savior.

Jesus' resurrection declares that:

1. Christianity is Real

What transformed a group of fearful deserters into a team of fearless witnesses that took the gospel to the boundaries of the ancient world?

It was the fact that Jesus was alive that energized and compelled the miraculous growth of the early Church from an obscure sect of 120 followers in an upper room in a Jerusalem building to the largest and most historically influential faith in world history.

Note 1 Corinthians 15:14

If someone could have produced the corpse of Jesus He would have been proved a liar and that the Christian faith had been built on falsehood (note 1 Corinthians 15:15).

But for 2,000 years the fact of the resurrection has stood the test of time, hostile investigations, and huge amounts of historical and scientific research (note 1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

No one would have paid the price the apostles and early Christ-followers paid for a lie.

2. Sin and Death Lose

Note 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

If Jesus had stayed dead, either He was not the sinless person people thought or His efforts to pay for the sins of the world had failed (note 1 Corinthians 15:17).

Note 1 Corinthians 15:26

the one invincible terror Death (for the believer) is not falling asleep in Christ and waking up to see His smile of welcome into the Father's house if Christ turns out to be nothing more than a dead guru. (Prior)

Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, death no longer reigns supreme.

It is not followed by "The End", but with "To Be Continued".

Sin and death, the greatest enemies of the human race, are now fangless and clawless beasts that still may roar, but for the genuine follower of Jesus, they no longer dominate and destroy because "He is risen".

3. Life is Worth Living

If Jesus never rose from the dead, then the followers of Jesus are the most pitiful collection of people that can be found (note 1 Corinthians 15:19)

Note 1 Corinthians 15:32

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead", and because of that, the Christian life is the fullest and most meaningful life that can be experienced because:

- God never wastes anything.
- Our life now is but a prelude to eternity.

When we allow God to "Re-New" us personally and as a church we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- We live in a culture where fear is ever-present, where disappointment and discouragement is all too common, where skepticism permeates nearly everything, and where conflict and a lack of love seem normal.
- Note Mark 16:2-3
- God rolled the stone away so we could look in and see He is risen.
- The stone was rolled away so a lost and confused culture could have their stones of fear, disappointment, doubt, hurt, and emptiness also rolled away.
- The stone was rolled away to show everyone that Jesus is Lord, that He's the way, the truth, and the life, that every word He has said is true and every promise He has made will be fulfilled, and that no matter what our circumstances are, God can be trusted.

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