

# Easter

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

## CONNECT

- What's your favorite breakfast?
- What was your favorite part of Holy Week?
- If you celebrated Easter growing up, what did those traditions look like? (Dressing up? Eating specific meals?)

## INTRODUCTION

The resurrection of Jesus is extraordinary, but it's also deeply personal. After recounting how the disciples found Jesus' tomb empty, John tells us about three personal interactions—first with Mary Magdalene, then with Thomas, and finally with Peter. The resurrection didn't just mean new life for Jesus, but in some way meant new life for Mary, Thomas, and Peter. For Peter, Jesus' resurrection meant a fresh start. The good news is that the risen Jesus offers the ultimate fresh start to all of us.

## OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

**Read:** John 21:15–19, John 13:36–38

### Discuss:

- It seems most likely that Peter was grieved after Jesus asked him the question the third time because it reminded him of denying Jesus three times. What does this teach us about how Jesus relates to disciples regarding sin?
- The question Jesus asks Peter is, "Do you love me?" Why does the subject of love matter in Peter's story?
- Jesus tells Peter that following him will mean feeding his sheep—meaning ministering as an apostle and pastor—and eventually dying a martyr's death. How can this be good news for him?

## APPLICATION

- Jesus re-affirmed Peter's call as an apostle three times. He didn't put him on probation, disqualify him, or exclude him. He gave him grace. How does the grace of Jesus shape the way you think about his call for you to follow him?
- (Real talk alert.) Peter's fresh start started by coming face-to-face with his sin. Are there areas of your life in which you're being unfaithful to Jesus? How does Jesus' response to Peter's sin encourage you?
- Peter was never the same after the grace of Jesus produced unstoppable love for Jesus. How do the events of Easter make you love Jesus more?

## PRAYER

- Spend time praising Jesus for his grace, love, and sacrifice.
- Praise Jesus as the risen King who is ruling and reigning at God's right hand.
- Pray that love for Jesus would expel unfaithfulness.