

Bible Study Guide: Easter Sunday – The Power of the Resurrection

 Source Transcript:

Big Idea

The resurrection of Jesus transforms darkness into light, turning despair into hope and calling every believer into a personal and active faith.

Theme

Easter is not just an event to celebrate—it is a personal encounter with the risen Christ that calls us to respond, believe, and share the good news.

Core Scriptures

John 20:1–18

Mary discovers the empty tomb and encounters the risen Jesus.

John 1:5

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Introduction: The Most Powerful Day in History

Easter is:

- The culmination of our faith
- The victory over sin and death
- The ultimate expression of God’s love

Key Insight:

“Easter is where God turns darkness into light.”

The first Easter began:

- In fear
- In confusion
- In darkness

But it ended with:

- Hope
 - Faith
 - New life
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Main Point 1: God Meets Us in the Darkness

Explanation

Mary goes to the tomb:

- Early in the morning
- While it is still dark

Spiritual Truth

God does His greatest work:

- In our darkest moments
- In our deepest pain

“God does His best work in the darkness.”

Application

- Where am I experiencing darkness right now?
- How might God be working in that place?

Sticky Quote:

“Your darkest moment can become your greatest encounter with God.”

Main Point 2: The Empty Tomb Changes Everything

Explanation

The tomb is:

- Empty
- Open
- No longer a place of death

Spiritual Truth

The empty tomb means:

- Sin is defeated
- Death is overcome
- Hope is alive

Response of the Disciples

- Some believe immediately
- Others struggle to understand

“One saw and believed—another still wondered.”

Application

- What does the empty tomb mean to me personally?
- Do I truly believe in the power of the resurrection?

Sticky Quote:

“The empty tomb demands a response.”

Main Point 3: Jesus Meets Us Personally

Explanation

Jesus appears to Mary:

- Not in a crowd
- But one-on-one

He calls her by name:

“Mary.”

Spiritual Truth

Jesus is:

- Personal
- Relational
- Intimate

Key Insight

He knows:

- Your name
- Your pain
- Your story

Application

- Do I see Jesus as personal in my life?
- When have I experienced Him personally?

Sticky Quote:

“Jesus knows your name—and calls you personally.”

Main Point 4: Recognition Changes Everything

Explanation

Mary doesn't recognize Jesus at first.

But when He speaks:

- Everything changes

Spiritual Truth

Recognition happens when:

- We hear His voice
- We encounter His presence

Application

- Am I listening for Jesus in my life?
- What is blocking me from recognizing Him?

Sticky Quote:

“Everything changes when you recognize Jesus.”

Main Point 5: Easter Requires a Response

Explanation

Mary:

- Doesn't stay at the tomb
- Runs to tell the disciples

Spiritual Truth

Easter is not passive:

- It calls for action
- It demands response

“Easter is calling for a response.”

Application

- How am I responding to Easter?
- Am I living differently because of it?

Sticky Quote:

“You cannot encounter the resurrection and stay the same.”

Main Point 6: Faith Moves Us from Fear to Action

Explanation

The disciples begin:

- In fear
- Behind locked doors

But eventually:

- They go
- They proclaim
- They live boldly

Spiritual Truth

Faith:

- Overcomes fear
- Leads to courage

Application

- What fears are holding me back?
- How can I step forward in faith?

Sticky Quote:

“Faith moves you from hiding to living boldly.”

Main Point 7: Jesus Is Both Savior and Friend

Explanation

Jesus is:

- The risen King
- Yet also deeply personal

“He is not far off—He is near.”

Spiritual Truth

Jesus:

- Walks with us
- Speaks to us
- Knows us intimately

Application

- Do I relate to Jesus personally?
- How can I deepen that relationship?

Sticky Quote:

“The Savior of the world is also your closest companion.”

Main Point 8: Resurrection Happens in Many Ways

Explanation

Resurrection is not always dramatic.

It can be:

- A moment of peace
- A new beginning
- A simple reminder of hope

“Empty tomb moments happen in big and small ways.”

Application

- Where have I experienced “resurrection” in my life?

- What new life is God bringing?

Sticky Quote:

“Resurrection shows up in everyday moments.”

Main Point 9: Easter Calls Us to Share the Good News

Explanation

Mary and the disciples:

- Go and tell others

Spiritual Truth

The gospel is:

- Meant to be shared
- Not kept

“Run and tell the world.”

Application

- Who can I share my faith with?
- How can I live as a witness?

Sticky Quote:

“The good news is too powerful to keep to yourself.”

Main Point 10: Easter Invites Us Into New Life

Explanation

Because Jesus lives:

- We live differently
- We love differently
- We hope differently

Spiritual Truth

Easter brings:

- New identity
- New purpose
- New direction

“You are alive because He is alive.”

Application

- What new life is God calling me into?
- How will I live differently?

Sticky Quote:

“Because He lives—you can live fully.”

Discussion Questions

1. Where have you experienced darkness in your life?

2. What does the resurrection mean to you personally?
 3. How has Jesus met you in a personal way?
 4. What is your response to the empty tomb?
 5. Who can you share the message of Easter with?
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Practical Application Steps

1. Reflect on the Resurrection

- Spend time in Scripture and prayer

2. Recognize Jesus Daily

- Look for His presence in everyday life

3. Respond in Faith

- Take one step of obedience

4. Share Your Story

- Tell someone about your faith

5. Live the New Life

- Walk in hope, purpose, and transformation
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Closing Prayer

Father,
Thank You for the gift of Easter
and the power of the resurrection.

Help us to see Your light in our darkness,
to recognize Your voice,
and to respond with faith and courage.

Teach us to live as people of the resurrection,
sharing Your love with the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Takeaway

Easter is not just something to celebrate—it is a life-changing encounter that calls you to believe, respond, and live transformed.