

# LOOK AGAIN

## Easter Sunday

### Getting Started

- *Larger LIFE Groups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

### Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a "High" from the week and a "Low" from the week.
- Share an Easter Tradition you had growing up.

### Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Start by reading the hymn, "[Hail Thee, Festival Day](#)"

#### God's Resurrection Plan

- Throughout the Old Testament God revealed His eternal plan of redemption to mankind. In advance, He described the sacrifice and resurrection of the Messiah. It was a plan He had purposed before He had even formed humanity. He then accomplished it, and through Jesus Christ we have the victory now and forever.
- The sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of humanity was not an afterthought of God. It was always the plan from the beginning. Revelation 13:8 calls Jesus, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."
- After his resurrection, Jesus met two men on the road to Emmaus, and he expected them to already understand through the Scriptures that Christ was meant to suffer and die. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself," (Luke 24:26-27).

- How amazing was that day on the road to Emmaus. Jesus himself detailed the different prophecies that concerned his death and resurrection. Still, the apostles and other New Testament writers do a good job of filling us in. The Old Testament is filled with prophecies and types of Jesus' suffering and death and resurrection as payment for the sins of the world, and the New Testament points those out.

### **Several (from the many) Old Testament Resurrection Passages**

- Daniel 12:2 - "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Both Jesus and Paul affirm its teaching in the New Testament. (John 5:29, Acts 24:15)
- Isaiah also prophecies physical resurrection. The dead are dust-dwelling sleepers, and resurrection will wake them up. Shifting metaphors, Isaiah depicts the earth giving birth. The tomb is a womb, and one day the dead will emerge in renewed bodily life. - "Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead." (Isaiah 26:19)
- Psalm 49:10, 15 - God "will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me..."
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 - The Valley of Dry Bones.
- Zechariah 12:10 – "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me who they pierced..."
- Isaiah 25:8 – "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord has spoken it."
- Job prophesied from the ash heap where he suffered. He declared in verses 19:25-26: "For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the last day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God."
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12 offers one of the most profound prophecies in the entire Old Testament, written over 700 years before Christ's death and resurrection.
- The Sign of Jonah - The Bible is also full of types and for-shadows. Jesus Christ is throughout the Old Testament in a variety of details. For instance, before his death and resurrection, Jesus offered simply the "sign of Jonah" as a foreshadowing of how long he would be dead. (see Matt 12:40)

### **For Discussion**

- The following five statements are paraphrases from the book "The Original Jesus" by Daniel Darling. As a group, discuss the implications of:
  - Because Easter is true, we finally have someone we can trust. (Jesus)
  - Because Easter is true, then we too will rise again.

- Because the gospel story is true, it means we can experience personal renewal.
- Because the Gospel story is true, there is a better world to come.
- Because the Gospel story is true, we can actually know God.
- One of the greatest Easter Hymns of all time was written by Charles Wesley in 1739; [Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#). Why do you think this hymn has stood the test of time?

## Group Prayer (15 Min)

- Closing Prayer and Challenge: Turn [Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#) into a prayer of praise back to God.

## Trios (20 Min)

*Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.*

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
  - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
  - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you've encountered it in this week's Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
  - What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
  - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How's your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you're building and spiritual conversations you're having with non-believing neighbors and friends.
  - List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:
 

---
  - What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
  - How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?