



Lasting Joy

April 2 & 5, 2026

Ice Breaker

What is one of the most joyful or exciting things you've ever witnessed in person that left a lasting impression on you?

Key Verses

- John 20:9
- John 20:18-20
- John 16:20-22
- John 20:24-31
- John 3:16
- John 11:25-26

Questions

1. The pastor mentioned that the disciples were initially scared of the authorities and confused about Jesus' resurrection. How do you think you would have reacted if you were one of the disciples on that first Easter?
2. Thomas demanded physical proof before believing in Jesus' resurrection. What role does doubt play in faith, and when does healthy skepticism cross the line into harmful unbelief?
3. Jesus told Thomas that those who believe without seeing are blessed. What does this mean for us today, and how can we see the resurrection without physically witnessing it?
4. The sermon emphasized that the resurrection provides unshakeable joy. How is this different from the temporary happiness we might find in other things?
5. Mary Magdalene immediately ran to tell others about seeing Jesus. What does this teach us about sharing our faith and the good news of the resurrection?

6. The disciples locked themselves away out of fear, but Jesus appeared to them anyway. How does Jesus meet us in our places of fear and doubt?
7. Thomas called Jesus, "My Lord and my God," after seeing Him. What does it mean to acknowledge Jesus as both Lord and God in our daily lives?
8. The pastor mentioned that Christians should be joyful people. If someone observed your life, would they see evidence of resurrection joy? Why or why not?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you've been looking for joy or fulfillment in temporary things. Each day, remind yourself that Jesus has risen from the dead and that this truth provides a foundation of joy that cannot be shaken. Practice starting each morning by declaring 'Jesus is alive!' and reflect on how this truth can impact your perspective on daily challenges and circumstances.

Key Takeaways

1. The resurrection of Jesus provides a foundation of joy that can never be taken away, unlike temporary sources of happiness
2. We can 'see' the resurrection today through the eyewitness testimony recorded in Scripture by those who witnessed it firsthand
3. Healthy skepticism is understandable, but there comes a point where refusing to believe eyewitness evidence becomes unreasonable and harmful
4. Jesus meets us in our fear and doubt with peace and forgiveness, just as He did with the disciples
5. Believing in Jesus as our risen Savior grants us eternal life and transforms our perspective on all of life's circumstances

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for rising from the dead and providing us with unshakeable joy and hope. Help us to live each day with the confidence that comes from knowing You are alive and that we will live with You forever. When we face difficulties or disappointments, remind us that our joy is not dependent on circumstances but on the truth of Your

resurrection. May we be people who radiate the joy of Easter every day of our lives, and may others see You through our transformed hearts. We pray this in Your victorious name, Amen.