

EASTER

April 5

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the group meeting following Easter Sunday, review the following passage:

- Matthew 28

Lighter Side

- Have you ever believed something as a kid but later questioned?
 - What made you start asking questions?
- What's something you've chased hoping it would satisfy you, but ultimately failed?
 - What did you learn from it?

Look At the Book

- The resurrection is the center of the Easter story. Pick a character from *Matthew 28*. What stands out about their part in the story?
 - How do fear, joy, and doubt all show up in this moment?
- The angel says, "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." Why is that phrasing important?
 - Leading question: what does it reveal about Jesus' credibility and authority?
- Some worshipped, some doubted. What do you make of that tension?
 - Why do you think doubt can exist even in the presence of truth?
- Jesus claims, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." What does that tell us about who Jesus is?
 - How does that connect to the idea that the resurrection is God's "yes" to Jesus' claims?
- On Sunday, we saw Jesus is presented as Teacher, Messiah (King), and God. Which of those is hardest for people to accept today? Why?

- Which is the hardest for you to accept? Why?
- The sermon emphasized fulfilled prophecy and the historical reality of Jesus. Does evidence matter when it comes to faith? Why?
 - Where do you personally wrestle with belief or trust?

Application

- If you were asked, "Now you know the story, what are you going to do with Jesus?" how would you answer that right now?
- Where are you tempted to look for satisfaction apart from God?
 - How have those things delivered, or not, on what they promised?
- The resurrection means the rescue has already arrived. What would it look like for you to stop waiting and start responding to that rescue?
- Jesus invites people into an apprentice-type relationship. What does this mean?
 - Of the parts of that definition, what feels most challenging?
- What is one specific practice you could begin this week to follow Jesus more intentionally?
- Who is one person you could invite into the adventure of following Jesus?

Pray

- Praise God for the **reality** of the resurrection.
- Thank Him for **making Himself known** through Jesus.
- Ask for **faith** where there is doubt.
- Pray for **courage** to follow Jesus fully this week.