

Small Group Guide: The King Raised

Easter Box Journey - Day 6 | John 20-21

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to the truth of the resurrection and what it means for your lives today.

Sermon Summary

This session explores the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to His disciples, focusing on Thomas's doubt, Peter's restoration, and the unique role of the apostles as eyewitnesses. The central message is that resurrection gives believers confidence to carry out God's work, even in the face of suffering.

Key Scripture References

- John 20:19-31 (Jesus appears to disciples and Thomas)
- John 21:1-19 (Jesus appears at the Sea of Galilee and restores Peter)

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Why do you think the disciples returned to fishing after seeing the risen Jesus?** What does this tell us about human nature and processing extraordinary events?
2. **Thomas often gets labeled as "doubting Thomas."** Is this fair? What can we learn from his honest skepticism and eventual belief?
3. **Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him, mirroring Peter's three denials.** What is the significance of this repetition? How does Jesus restore Peter?

Application and Growth

7. **The apostles were unique eyewitnesses, but we have their testimony in Scripture.** How does this shape the way you read and trust the Bible?

8. **The resurrection gave Peter confidence to shepherd Jesus' sheep despite coming suffering.** How does the reality of resurrection change the way you approach:
- Daily challenges?
 - Fear of death?
 - Sharing your faith?
 - Serving others?

Key Takeaways

1. **Belief without seeing is blessed.** Our faith is based on the reliable testimony of eyewitnesses, not inferior to their experience but equally valid.
2. **Restoration is possible.** Peter's denial wasn't the end of his story. Jesus offers restoration and renewed purpose to all who have failed Him.
3. **Resurrection changes everything.** The reality of Jesus' resurrection gives us confidence to face suffering, persecution, and even death without fear.
4. **We have a mission.** Like Peter was called to "shepherd my sheep," we are called to carry out the work entrusted to the church.

Closing Reflection

Read this quote together:

"The suffering that Jesus endured, Peter is also going to face in carrying out his task. But he doesn't need to be afraid because resurrection gives Peter the confidence to carry out the work entrusted to him."

Silent Reflection: Take 2-3 minutes of silence to consider: What work has God entrusted to you? How does the resurrection give you confidence to carry it out?

Prayer Prompts

Close your time by praying for:

- Faith to believe without seeing
- Confidence that comes from resurrection hope
- Courage to face suffering or opposition for Christ
- Opportunities to be faithful witnesses to those who haven't seen
- Restoration in broken relationships or areas of personal failure