

Easter Sunday Small Group Guide: The Resurrection of Jesus

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture: John 20:1-18

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions four key points: The Search, The Clue, The Healing, and The Proclamation. Which of these resonated with you most and why?
2. Pastor mentions Mary coming to the tomb "while it was still dark." Have you ever experienced a time of spiritual darkness? How did you seek Jesus during that time?
3. Reflect on the two questions Jesus asked Mary: "Why are you crying?" and "Who are you seeking?" How would you answer these questions in your own life right now?
4. The sermon discusses the concept of the "hedonic treadmill." How have you experienced this in your own pursuit of happiness? How does the resurrection of Jesus offer an alternative to this cycle?
5. Mary's encounter with Jesus transformed her from someone in despair to the first evangelist. Share a time when an encounter with Jesus changed your perspective or actions.
6. The sermon concludes with the powerful "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming" illustration. How does this message of hope apply to challenges you're facing in your life or in the world around you?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus meets us in our darkness and grief, calling us by name.
2. The resurrection proves that Jesus is more than a good teacher – He is Lord.
3. An encounter with the risen Jesus can transform our lives and purpose.
4. The hope of resurrection offers an answer to our deepest longings and the world's brokenness.

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally listen for Jesus calling your name. Set aside time each day for prayer and reflection.
2. Identify an area of your life where you need resurrection hope. Share this with the group and pray for each other.
3. Practice being an "evangelist" like Mary. Share one aspect of your faith journey with someone who doesn't know Jesus this week.
4. When facing challenges, remind yourself "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming." Consider how you can bring this hope to others who are struggling.

Closing Prayer: Thank Jesus for His resurrection and the hope it brings. Ask for His help in living as people transformed by this truth.