

Summary

This Easter sermon focuses on Jesus appearing to his disciples after his resurrection, specifically examining Luke 24:35–53. The pastor emphasizes that Jesus had to convince his disciples that he was truly alive by showing them physical evidence – his hands and feet, eating with them, and opening their minds to understand Scripture. The message highlights two key things Jesus gave his followers: evidence for their minds through physical proof of his resurrection, and assurance for their souls through the promise of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit. The pastor stresses that no one is too far gone for God's grace, nor too good to need salvation, and concludes with an urgent reminder that we're not promised tomorrow, making today the time to accept Jesus.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together on this Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we gather in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us today. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with each other, and give us the courage to examine our own relationship with You. Holy Spirit, we invite You to move among us and speak to each person exactly what they need to hear. May we leave this time changed and more convinced of Your love and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you were absolutely convinced about that turned out to be completely wrong? How did you find out you were mistaken?

Key Verses

Luke 24:39
Luke 24:44–46
Isaiah 53:5
John 20:29
Hebrews 6:18–19

Questions

- Why do you think the disciples had such a hard time believing Jesus was really alive, even after he appeared to them multiple times?
- The pastor mentioned that Jesus 'opened their minds to understand the Scripture.' How has God opened your understanding of His Word in

your own life?

- Jesus told his disciples they were 'witnesses of all these things.'
In what ways are we witnesses of Jesus' resurrection today?

- The sermon mentioned that some people think they're 'too far gone' while others think they're 'good enough' on their own. Which mindset do you think is more dangerous and why?

- How does the promise of the Holy Spirit provide assurance for our souls in times of uncertainty and chaos?

- The pastor shared a story about his neighbor Gerald and the urgency of sharing the gospel. How does this challenge you in your relationships with others?

Life Application

This week, pray the prayer from Luke 24:45 before you read Scripture: 'God, open my mind to understand Your Word.' Spend time each day reading a portion of Scripture and asking God to show you something new. Additionally, identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus and pray for an opportunity to share the hope of the resurrection with them.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus provided physical evidence of his resurrection to convince his disciples, showing his hands and feet and eating with them

- The resurrection brings questions before it brings conviction, and that's normal - even the disciples struggled to believe at first

- Jesus opened the disciples' minds to understand Scripture, showing how all of the Bible points to him and his work

- No one is too far gone for God's grace, nor too good to need salvation - everyone needs Jesus

- We're not promised tomorrow, making today the urgent time to accept Jesus and share him with others

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the evidence You've given us of Your resurrection and the assurance You provide for our souls. Help us to be like those early disciples who went from doubt to joy and wonder at who You are. For those in our group who may still be questioning, we pray that Your Holy Spirit would open their minds to understand the truth of Your Word. For those who know You, give us boldness to share this hope with others, knowing that time is short and eternity is long. May we leave here today not just convinced in our minds, but transformed in our hearts, ready to live as witnesses of Your resurrection power. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and use us for Your glory. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.

