

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

April 4

Pastor Aaron's message this week should read like a headline... "Easter 2021...GOOD NEWS!" Not good news about a virus, politics, legislation... Good News in the Name of JESUS! We need the reminder of the Good News of Jesus after this last year! The Good News is so much deeper than we can comprehend. It is that Christ **Died** for our sins, He was **Buried** and He was **Resurrected** from the dead! It is in that resurrection that we are made alive in Christ if we choose to accept it.

Community Prayer:

Everlasting Father, thank you for what Jesus did for each of us; He died for our sins, He was buried, and on the third day He was Resurrected from the dead with all power in His hands; the power to forgive us of all of our sins and allow us to become new creations in Him. May we celebrate this Easter for what Christ has done for us, and will do for those who have not yet believed in Him as Savior and Lord, as we trust in Your transformational power; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. Think about Easter through the lens of your maturing over the years...What did Easter mean to you as a child? As an Adult? As a member of the Body of Christ?

EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

1 Corinthians 15: 1-2

2. Why is it important for you to be reminded of the message of the Gospel (Good News)?
3. What stand have you taken since becoming a Follower of Jesus?
4. How do you hold firmly to what you have been taught by the Gospel? What does that look like in your daily life?
5. Have you ever wrestled with your faith to the point where your beliefs were challenged? Talk about that time and the circumstances and how you found your way back to the Truth of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 15: 3-4

6. What is the threefold message of the Gospel?
7. Where do we find the proof of this Good News?



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Christ Died: He died for our sins; He died for His enemies

Romans 5: 8

8. How does God's demonstration of His love toward us make you feel?
9. What does this say about your ability to obtain salvation based on your works?

Christ was Buried: Testifies that He really died

Isaiah 53: 8-9

This prophecy took place 600 years before Jesus was born.

10. Why do you think none of the Disciples or other followers protested Jesus oppression and judgment?
11. Who was this Rich man mentioned in this passage who allowed Jesus body to be laid in his tomb? (Matthew 27: 57-60)

"They little thought what they were doing. They little thought that unwittingly they were providing the most complete evidence of the truth of Christ's coming resurrection. They were actually making it impossible to prove that any deception or imposition had occurred. Their seal, their guard, their precautions were all to become witnesses. In just a few hours that Christ has risen, their own devices became instruments to show forth God's glory." – J.C. Ryle

Christ was raised to life on the third day...

1 Corinthians 15: 5-8

12. Why is it important for you to know about all of these eye witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus?
13. How does this confidence that, as a believer, you too will be resurrected from the dead and be with Christ for all of eternity?

1 Corinthians 15: 55-57

14. Why does death have no victory in the life of a follower of Jesus?
15. Who is responsible for our victory over death? Why?

1 Corinthians 15: 58

16. Why is it important for you to stand firm and let nothing move you?
17. Why is our labor in the Lord not in vain? What does your labor look like in today's world?



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Romans 8: 11

18. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit living in every follower of Jesus?

THE TAKEAWAY

- You can forgive because you've been forgiven, you can love because you have been loved.
- You don't have to be afraid or be overcome by anxiety because you have been empowered by God.

Mark 1: 15 "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the Good News!"

- Today is the day of your salvation, repent and believe the Good News.
 - Welcome to the Family

Romans 10: 9-10 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with the heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with the mouth that you profess your faith and be saved.

Repeat this prayer for salvation:

Jesus, I am a sinner but I believe you died for my sins, and on the third day you were raised from the grave with all power in your hands, the power to forgive sins. I confess my sins to you, I repent of them, I turn from them 180 degrees, come into my heart and be my Savior and Lord, in your Name I pray, Amen.

Please reach out to our team at communitygroups@hillsidechurches.com or text HILLSIDE to 94000 if you just prayed that prayer and asked Jesus to become Savior and Lord of your life or you just want to connect with someone on staff.



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Parent's Corner

1. The gospel is THE good news! How often do you think about the gospel? Where do you allow the gospel to influence your life?
2. How can you allow the gospel to impact and guide your approach to parenting?
3. Where in your life do you need to see the resurrection life of Jesus at work?
4. As you close your time together take a moment to pray. Before you pray take 60 seconds to individually think about two things:
 - o Where do you need the hope of the gospel in your life?
 - o Where do you need the resurrection power of Jesus in your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

