

## Discuss

Five things about Easter you may not have known:

**1. Something really happened. You may not buy it was the resurrection of Jesus - but the people back then whole were there sure did.**

- What do you believe about Easter and the life of Jesus? What do you make of the reaction of Jesus’s followers and the time in history following His resurrection?

**2. It ended religion. What Jesus started wasn’t about religion - it was about a relationship.**

*“...And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle...”* ([John 19:30. NLT](#); [Luke 23:44-46. NLT](#))

*“So, friends, we can now – without hesitation – walk right up to God, into ‘the Holy Place.’ Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The ‘curtain’ into God’s presence is his body. So let’s do it....”* ([Hebrews 10:19-22. Msg](#))

- How does viewing Christianity as a relationship with Jesus compare to seeing it as simply religion? What does the accessibility of God tell you about Him?

**3. It leveled the playing field. After Jesus was resurrected, the first person He talked to was a woman named Mary Magdalene. This act turned the culture of the day on its head.**

*“‘Mary!’ Jesus said. She turned toward him and cried out, ‘Rabboni!’ (Which is Hebrew for ‘Teacher.’) [Then] Jesus said, ‘... [I want you to] go find my brothers and tell them....’ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, ‘I have seen the Lord!’ Then she gave them his message.”* ([John 20:16-18. NLT](#))

- How does Jesus first appearing to a woman affirm His love for the marginalized in the world? How does this speak to the validity of the Christian message?

**4. It lasted 40 days. Jesus used these last 40 days to remove any and all doubt about His resurrection; and He also used it to reinforce the mission it was meant to unleash - God calling the world back to Himself through the mission and centrality of His Church.**

*“...After his [Jesus’s] suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”* ([Acts 1:1-3. NIV](#))

*“I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.” ([Matthew 16:18. Msg](#))*

*“...Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” ([Matthew 28:18-20. NIV](#))*

- How does the way Jesus spent his last 40 days on earth convey to us the importance of what He accomplished and what He charges His followers with? If you're a Christian, are you taking His charge seriously?

**5. It can happen to you. The very same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available for your life. He can bring you to life from any place you feel lifeless.**

*“... [you need to] understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.” ([Ephesians 1:19-20. NLT](#))*

*“And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” ([Romans 6:4. NLT](#))*

- How does it feel to know that the power that raised Jesus is available to you? What area(s) of your life do you need or want to invite Him into?

## Next Steps

**Spend some time reflecting on these five things we know about Easter. If you're not a Christian, wrestle with these five things and consider how they may affect how you view the Christian faith. If you are a Christian, spend some time thanking God for Jesus and how He's worked in your life and invite Him to continue working in your life.**

## Continued Reading

Read [John 19:30; 20:11-18; Luke 23:44-46; Hebrews 10:19-22; Acts 1:1-3; Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:19-20; Romans 6:4.](#)

## Prayer

God, thank you for the life of Jesus. Thank you for his sacrifice and for raising him from the dead with your great power. Thank you for offering that same power for our life. Thank you for how you are working in us. Help us to cooperate with you in all areas of our life, and to share your love and message with the people around us.