

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **It's Hard to Believe – That JESUS Rose from the Dead.**
March 27, 2016



Welcome & Prayer

Watch: [He's Still Risen](#) (1.5min YouTube video) &/or **Listen:** [For the Cross](#) (Bethel Music, song/video)

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

PRAY *JESUS – Your Death & Resurrection changes EVERYTHING! You are the most important person in history, and your Resurrection is the most important event in history, and for our lives. Help us to appreciate, celebrate and share this more. May our lives reflect a growing relationship with You, the Risen King! Amen.

Connect

* **What is 1 of your favorite things about the season of Spring?**

(new life, plants in bloom, longer daylight, outdoor activities, spring cleaning...)

Check In

* **How did the Easter Weekend (Good Friday, Easter Sunday) impact you this year?**

* **Is anyone in our Group getting [Baptized](#) or going to the [Set Free Retreat in April](#)?**

Sunday Message Feedback

* **What initially impacted you from Sunday's message?**

1. Shawn gave an overview of the Easter Story. Did anything jump out at you? If you were one of Jesus followers would you have responded the same way they did when Jesus died? Discuss.
2. Being honest, **do you ever have a hard time believing in the Resurrection?**
Are there any questions or doubts that you have about the resurrection?
Do you, or have you ever really thought about it? Discuss.
3. Shawn pointed out that when you read and study the story of the Resurrection you discover that no one in the story was expecting a resurrection. Yet, here we are 2000 years later talking about it. **Why do you think that it's important to note?** Discuss.
(NOTE: This is important to note because it demonstrates that Jesus' followers were not interested in keeping His message and movement alive. They were embarrassed, depressed and scared. The point is, no one commits their life to what they know or believe to be a lie).
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-19**
 - a. What jumps out at you from this passage of Scripture?
 - b. Why would our faith in Christ be useless if Jesus did not rise from the dead?

Resurrection Quotes (Optional)

“If a man can predict his own death and resurrection, and pull it off, I just go with whatever that man says”

- Andy Stanley

*“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? **The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.**”*

- Dr. Tim Keller

*“Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.” “The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom. . . . **It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven.**” “The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it.”*

- Dr. N.T. Wright

*The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the pioneer of life,' **He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man.** He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. To preach Christianity meant (to the Apostles) primarily to preach the Resurrection. ... The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences, were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought.*

- C.S. Lewis

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Application - JESUS always make things personal and applicable...

Read **John 11:25-26** – “Do YOU believe this...?”

Why is CHRIST’S Resurrection so central, so important, so transformational for your faith...?

What difference should the truth of Christ’s Resurrection make in our personal daily lives?

How can we reflect/share the truth and hope of the Resurrection to those around us?

Share examples...

Prayer

Based on the Discussion and Sharing...PRAY for one another.

Celebration of our Risen & Returning Savior King, JESUS!

Thanksgiving for our Salvation & Victory over Death.

Empowerment for Living Life with eternal hope, purpose and mission (to reach others).

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Additional Resources (Optional)

Please ask your Leader to email you the document **Resurrection – Resources to Consider**

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Coming Up at Main Street

*Baptism Celebration

Sunday, April 3rd. 6pm – Main Street Auditorium.

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

*Prayer Summit

Sunday, April 24. Main Street Auditorium.

(there is no Summit in March because of Easter Weekend)

*Set Free Retreat (formerly **Encounter God**)

Fri/Sat, April 8/9. Main Street Chapel.

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free