

# Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 4/5/26

## **Summary**

This Easter sermon focused on the profound truth that Jesus rose from the dead despite his followers having completely given up hope. Pastor Mark emphasized that all of Jesus' disciples had abandoned Him even before His crucifixion, and none expected His resurrection. When the women went to the tomb, they went to mourn, not expecting to find Him alive. Even after witnessing the resurrection, many disciples struggled to believe. The central message is that Jesus' resurrection was an act of pure grace - He rose 'anyway,' regardless of human faith or expectation. This demonstrates that God's power to act is not dependent on our belief, though our belief is necessary for our own resurrection and salvation.

## **Intro Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word on this resurrection theme, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to set aside our preconceptions and doubts, just as the early disciples had to do. May Your Holy Spirit guide our discussion and help us to truly understand the magnitude of Your grace shown in Jesus' resurrection. We pray that each person in this group would be receptive to what You want to reveal to us through Your Word and through one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## **Ice Breaker**

What is something you've given up on in the past that later turned out better than you expected?

## **Key Verses**

1. Matthew 27:1-66
2. Matthew 28:1-10
3. Luke 24:34
4. Matthew 26:31

## **Questions**

1. Why do you think all of Jesus' disciples abandoned Him even before His crucifixion, despite having witnessed His miracles and heard His teachings?
2. How does it change your perspective on the resurrection to know that none of the disciples expected it to happen?
3. What does it mean that Jesus rose from the dead 'anyway' - regardless of human faith or expectation?
4. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus appeared to them after they had given up all hope?
5. In what ways is Jesus' resurrection an act of grace, similar to His birth, life, and death?

6. Pastor Mark said 'sometimes God does his greatest work after we have given up.' Can you think of examples from your own life or from Scripture where this has been true?
7. How does understanding that God's power isn't dependent on our belief affect the way you approach prayer and faith?
8. What areas of your life might you have 'given up' on where you need to remember that God can still act?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one area of your life where you may have given up hope or stopped believing God can work. Spend time in prayer asking God to renew your faith in that area, remembering that His power to act isn't limited by your ability to believe. Consider sharing this area with a trusted friend or family member who can pray with you and encourage your faith.

## **Key Takeaways**

- All of Jesus' disciples had given up hope even before his crucifixion, and none expected his resurrection
- Jesus rose from the dead 'anyway' - his resurrection was not dependent on human faith or expectation

- The resurrection was an act of pure grace, demonstrating God's power to act regardless of our belief
- Sometimes God does his greatest work after we have given up hope
- While God's truth isn't contingent on our belief, our belief is necessary for our own salvation and resurrection

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we thank You for rising from the dead anyway - despite the doubts, fears, and abandonment of Your followers. Help us to remember that Your power is not limited by our faith, though our faith is essential for our relationship with You. When we face situations that seem hopeless, remind us that You are the God who works even when we have given up. Strengthen our faith and help us to trust in Your resurrection power in every area of our lives. May we live as people who truly believe that You are risen, and may that truth transform how we face each day. In Your powerful and victorious name we pray, Amen.