



Message Series Guide



Aftermath

Week 1 – Aftermath of Jesus' Death

Psalm 16:10, Acts 1:6-8, 2:1-4; 2:46-47

The aftereffects of a storm, disaster or crisis are often called the aftermath. The aftermath may include homes that have been destroyed, cities that have been devastated, or people who have been killed. Rarely do we find something positive in the aftermath. However, in the aftermath of Jesus' death, there were many "signs of life," including the resurrection of Jesus, a new mission, the gift of the Holy Spirit and explosive growth of the Church. The cross was not the end of the story; and neither will our crisis be the end of the story. God has something greater yet to come.

READ:

Psalm 16:10, 1 John 5:4, Acts 1:6-8, 2:1-4; Romans 15:13; Acts 2:46-47; Matthew 16:18

- How do we see the promise in Psalm 16:10 fulfilled in Jesus? How can we stand on the promises of God today as we face a worldwide pandemic?
- Did the disciples fully understand Jesus' mission on earth? Why or why not? What assignment did Jesus give the disciples? What is the job of a witness? How can we be a witness today?
- Who does Jesus say will fill the void of His absence? What kind(s) of help does the Holy Spirit provide to believers?
- In your opinion, what caused the early church to experience explosive growth even under persecution? What could we learn from the early church in regard to facing hardships?

DISCUSS:

- Have you ever experienced a natural disaster (tornado, hurricane, violent storm)? What was the aftermath? How did you deal with the aftermath of the disaster?
- The word, "resurrection," means *renewal*, *restoration* and *new birth*. How is it possible to experience these things during and after a crisis or tragedy?
- What "assignments" (ministry, service, assistance, etc.) have you taken on since the COVID-19 crisis began? How does it help us to consider the needs of others over our own, especially during times of hardships? Do you feel God has given you or your Journey Group an assignment following this crisis?
- How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? How do you rely on the Holy Spirit in difficult circumstances?
- Why do you think the Church has historically experienced growth and revival under persecution and threat? How do you think the Church today will respond following the worldwide pandemic?

PRAY:

Pray that in the aftermath of COVID-19 that the Church will be prepared for what God wants to do next.

RESPOND:

Participate in The Ridge's "Defining Moment" – as groups of 10 people or less meet at the prayer stone in front of the church building (practicing social distancing) to pray for our community, nation and world.