



Sermon Discussion Guide: Resurrects Life

Series: *Rebel Grace*

Date: 04/05/2026

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3–5 (The Message)

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

Opening Prayer

Risen Christ,
meet us in every place that still feels dark, heavy, or unfinished.
Help us to be honest about what has been lost, brave enough to face what is hard, and open enough to receive the new life You offer.
Raise our eyes, renew our hope, and remind us that resurrection is not only something You did, but something You are still doing.
In Your name, Amen.

Introduction & Context

Easter can feel so familiar that we forget how shocking it first was. We celebrate with joy because we know the ending: Christ is risen. But the first Easter morning did not begin with celebration. It began in grief, confusion, fear, and darkness.

Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb while it is still dark. Peter and the others hear the alarming news that Jesus' body is gone. For them, resurrection was not yet good news they understood. It felt like one more painful mystery in a week already full of heartbreak.

This message invites us not to skip too quickly to celebration. Resurrection is good news, but it does not erase the reality of grief, loss, or death. In fact, resurrection means death was real. Yet the promise of Easter is this: death and darkness do not get the final word. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we are given brand-new life, and that new life begins now.





Discussion Questions

1. Easter Starts in the Dark

John tells us Mary came to the tomb “early in the morning, while it was still dark.” Why does it matter that the Easter story begins there instead of in obvious joy or victory?

Have you ever been in a season where it felt hard to believe light would return? What helped you keep going?

2. New Life on the Other Side of Death

The message says, “new life only comes after the old life has ended.” What does that stir in you?

Where in your life have you experienced some kind of death—loss, disappointment, failure, change, or grief—that later became the ground for new life?

3. Facing the Hard Stuff

Sometimes we try to skip over pain, put on a happy face, or pretend we are fine. Why is that so tempting?

What might it look like to grieve honestly without giving up hope?

4. Resurrection Is Personal but Not Private

Mary encounters the risen Jesus personally, but she is then sent to share the good news. Why is it important that resurrection does not stop with private comfort?

How have you seen faith become too private or self-contained? What does it look like instead to become a witness?

5. “The Why” of Resurrection Is Love

The message says the wrong question is only “How does Jesus live?” and the deeper question is “Why does Jesus live?”—with the answer being love. What do you make of that?



How does resurrection reveal not just God’s power, but God’s love?

6. Brand-New Life Begins Now

1 Peter says we have been given “a brand-new life” and that “the future starts now.” What do you think it means that resurrection life is not only future, but present?

Where do you already see signs of resurrection—hope, healing, reconnection, courage, joy, or renewed purpose—in your life or in the world around you?

7. Rebel Grace

The message describes rebel grace as “the stubborn, life-giving refusal to let darkness have the final word.” What does that mean to you?

Where is God inviting you to resist cynicism, despair, or numbness and instead live as someone who believes death is not in charge anymore?

Closing Prayer

God of resurrection,
thank You for raising Jesus from the dead and giving us a brand-new life.
When we are weary, remind us that the future starts now.
When we are grieving, remind us that darkness does not last forever.
When we are tempted to keep good news to ourselves, send us out as witnesses to Your love.
Teach us to live as Easter people, trusting that You are still making all things new.
In the name of the risen Christ, Amen.

Key Takeaway

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, new life is possible—not only someday, but now. Resurrection is personal, but not private. Christ meets us in the dark, brings life out of death, and sends us to live as witnesses to a hope that refuses to let darkness have the final word.





NEXT STEPS: P.A.R.

Pray: Tell the truth to God about where life still feels dark, unresolved, or heavy. Ask Jesus to meet you there and call your name with hope.

Act: Begin one resurrection-shaped rhythm this week. Choose one simple practice that makes room for new life to grow—gratitude, rest, prayer, reaching out to someone, sharing a meal, or noticing daily signs of grace.

Reflect: Pay attention to where new life pushes up through the dust. Where do you notice renewed energy, joy, courage, healing, or connection? How might God be inviting you to share that good news with someone else?

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