



EASTER

AT JENKS CHURCH

Small Group Guide: History's Great Mystery

Ice Breaker

- **What's your favorite Easter memory or tradition?**
 - **If you could ask Jesus one question face-to-face, what would it be?**
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

- 1. The Pattern of Movements: The sermon outlined how most religious and social movements follow a predictable pattern. Why doesn't Christianity fit this pattern? What makes it unique?**
- 2. Jesus-Centered vs. Idea-Centered: Jesus constantly made Himself the center of His message rather than just teaching principles. Why is this significant? How is this different from other religious teachers?**
- 3. The Disciples' Response: The disciples who wrote the Gospels portrayed themselves as cowards who abandoned Jesus. Why is their honesty about their failure actually evidence for the truth of the resurrection?**
- 4. Read John 11:25-26 (Jesus' words to Martha). What does it mean that Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life" rather than "I will teach you about resurrection"?**

Personal Reflection

- 5. Your Own Doubts: Have you ever had a season where you questioned your faith or walked away from church? What brought you back or what's keeping you on the fence?**



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- 6. Unanswered Questions: The sermon acknowledged that many people have unanswered questions or unanswered prayers. How does the resurrection speak to those uncertainties, even if it doesn't answer every specific question?**
- 7. "He Saw and Believed": John didn't fully believe until he saw the empty tomb (John 20:8). What moment or experience solidified your faith in Jesus? Or if you're still exploring, what would help you take that next step?**
- 8. The Four-Point Message: The early church's message was simple: "You killed Him, God raised Him, we've seen Him, so say you're sorry." How does this compare to how we often share our faith today? Is our message as clear and direct?**

Practical Application

- 9. Living Hope: Peter and the other disciples were transformed from fearful to bold after seeing the resurrected Jesus. What area of your life needs that kind of resurrection power right now?**
 - 10. Giving Jesus a Second Look: The sermon encouraged people to give Jesus a second glance regardless of bad experiences with Christians or churches. Who in your life needs this encouragement? How can you share the hope of the resurrection with them this week?**
 - 11. Beyond the Crucifixion: The sermon emphasized not stopping at Jesus' death but celebrating His resurrection. How can you live differently this week because Jesus is alive, not just because He died for you?**
 - 12. Your Next Step: Whether you're a longtime believer, a skeptic, or somewhere in between, what is one specific next step you need to take in response to the resurrection?**
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose one or create your own):

For Believers:

- **Share Your Story:** Tell at least one person this week about what the resurrection means to you personally. Focus on the transformation it's brought to your life.
- **Resurrection Living:** Identify one area where you're living in defeat rather than resurrection power. Pray specifically for God to bring new life to that situation.
- **Gratitude Journal:** Each day this week, write down one way Jesus has shown He is alive and active in your life.

For Seekers/Questioners:

- **Investigate the Evidence:** Read one of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, or John 20-21) and write down your observations and questions.
- **Honest Conversation:** Talk to a trusted Christian friend about your doubts and questions. Ask them to share why they believe in the resurrection.
- **Prayer Experiment:** Even if you're unsure, pray a simple prayer: "Jesus, if you're real and if you really rose from the dead, show me. I'm open."

For Everyone:

- **Communion Reflection:** Take communion this week (at church or at home) and specifically focus on celebrating the resurrection, not just remembering the crucifixion.
- **Serve Someone:** The resurrection means death has been defeated. Show someone this week that love wins by serving them in a practical way.