



Small Group Study Guide

Sermon: How Jesus Changed Everything!

April 5, 2026 | CrossPointe Church

Tracy "PT" Pounders, Pastor

INTRODUCTION: PT's Easter Sunday message proclaimed Jesus' death and bodily resurrection changed everything — turning shame to song, fear to boldness, and sealing God's victory over sin, Satan, and death. Using Joseph of Arimathea, the devoted women, Peter, and Isaiah's prophecies, PT called Christians to visible, potentially costly faith, to remain faithful even in difficult seasons, investigate doubts honestly, and tell others that the tomb is empty!

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Luke 23:50–24:8** — Joseph of Arimathea buries Jesus; devoted women keep watch; the stone is rolled away. Shows faithful devotion and the first discovery of the empty tomb.
- **Luke 24:13–35** — Road to Emmaus: Jesus walks with two disciples, explains the Scriptures, then vanishes. Emphasizes prophecy fulfillment and eyes opened by Christ.
- **Luke 24:36–49** — Jesus appears to the disciples, proves His bodily resurrection, opens their minds to Scripture, and commissions them to preach repentance and forgiveness. Confirms the resurrection as the basis for mission.
- **Isaiah 52:13–53:12** — Suffering Servant prophecy: foretells the Messiah's humiliation, suffering, vicarious atonement, burial, and vindication. Demonstrates that Christ's death and resurrection were prophesied.
- **1 Corinthians 15:17** — Paul's warning that without the resurrection Christian faith is futile. Underlines the resurrection's centrality.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** — Christ took our sin so we might become God's righteousness. Explains the substitutionary purpose of Jesus' death.
- **Ephesians 6:12** — Spiritual forces of darkness oppose God's work; underscores cosmic stakes of the cross and resurrection.
- **Daniel 12:2** — Future resurrection and final sorting of humanity; ties Christ's rising to the larger hope of bodily resurrection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which person or group from the sermon do you most identify with — Joseph of Arimathea, the devoted women, or Peter? Why? (See Luke 23–24)
2. PT issued a challenge to us all to have *"...faith that is known, not hidden."* What would that look like in your life this week? What might it cost? (refer to Joseph's example)
3. Isaiah 53 describes the Suffering Servant. How does knowing these prophecies were fulfilled affect your confidence in the gospel? (See Isaiah 52–53)
4. The sermon listed **"Ten Strong, Circumstantial Reasons to Believe."** Which one challenged or encouraged you the most and why? (refer to Sermon Notes for the List)
5. PT warns against leaving Jesus *"on the cross or in the tomb by your silence."* Is there a specific area of compromise or silence God is prompting you to repent from or speak about?

6. How does the story of the women — faithful in unseen service during extreme grief — reshape how you value ordinary acts of ministry? Give an example from your life or group.
7. The sermon contrasts Christianity's resurrection claim with other religious models. How does the bodily resurrection of Jesus change how you live daily compared with a purely moral or spiritualized faith? (see 1 Corinthians 15 discussion)
8. If doubt or cynicism is present in the group, what would "following Peter's example" practically look like — investigation, asking questions, reading Scripture, or something else? (see Luke 24 to investigate)

PASTOR'S BEST QUOTES

- *"The cross exposes our sin and heals our guilt; confession opens heaven, and mercy outruns mockery."*
- *"Be the believer who steps up to be counted with Christ even if it COSTS YOU SOMETHING!"*
- *"Devotion is not measured by applause; it is forged in the resolve to remain in life's uncomfortable spaces."*
- *"The Resurrection isn't first a theory to argue; it's an event that invites a response."*
- *"Don't leave Jesus on the cross by your silence or in the tomb by your apathy."*

ACTION PROMPTS

- Pray for boldness: ask God for one specific opportunity to share the gospel and act on it.
- Read Isaiah 52–53 and Luke 24 this week; journal what new detail about Jesus stands out to you each day.
- Invite one person to join you for next Sunday's service; share the resurrection story personally when you invite them.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, we thank You for the empty tomb and the risen Christ who changes everything. Give us boldness like Joseph, devotion like the women, and honest curiosity like Peter. Help each person who calls CrossPointe their home, to grow in faith, find a small group community, and invite others to experience Your life-changing love at in our faith community. Use us to tell the world: the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive! Thank You for forgiveness, resurrection hope, and the courage to live out our faith publicly, without shame or fear. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT (Franklin Tracy Pounders) and Tabatha Pankey ON FACEBOOK !!!