

Easter is the celebration of an event that gives us incredible hope and assurance that new beginnings are possible!

New life comes only through a relationship with Christ.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

How do I know I can trust Jesus?

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way...Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." Mark 10:32-34

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words. Luke 24:1-8

Connect

Apart from the Easter story, what true stories have you heard, but found difficult to believe?

Word and Reflection

Easter is the celebration of an event that transformed history and continues to transform people's lives. The Christian faith hinges on this historical event - Jesus was raised from the dead! He was put to death on a cross, was buried and then three days later He rose from the dead. Jesus is the only man in history to predict his own death and resurrection, and then pull it off. This single event gives us incredible hope and assurance that new beginnings and new life are possible through a relationship with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17; Mark 10:32-34; John 1:29; John 11:25-26; Luke 24:1-8, 44-48

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How has God made you a new person and given you a new life? What has He changed in your life that you felt hopeless to change?
- Pastor Gregg said that Jesus was not a victim; He was on a mission. Discuss with your group what Jesus' mission was. What assurance do we have that He accomplished His mission?
- Read Luke 24:1-8. How does knowing Jesus rose from the dead affect the way you live your life? What "dead" area are you needing His power to resurrect and bring new life to?
- "Signs" of the risen Christ can be seen through his transforming work in the lives of people. Whose life would you consider to be a "sign"? Why? How is your life a "sign" to others that Christ is alive and gives new life?

Action

- What is God calling you to do this week to show the love of Christ to people who don't know Him? Take time to pray for them as a group.

Prayer

- Pray for the needs of those in your Grace Group and for those to whom you are reaching out.