

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: Matthew 28:16-17, Matthew 20:18-21. Romans 10:17

READ THE PASSAGE

- What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

It is possible to love God and, at the same time, doubt the Word of God (vs 1-5)

True faith is taking the next step of faith (vs 1-5)

⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words,

The way forward in faith is to remember the Word of God (vs 6-8)

Martin Luther said, "I preach the Gospel every week, because every week we forget."

⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

The Truth of God does not bend to the culture, but bends the culture towards the Truth (vs 9-10)

¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Doubt is not wrong, but what you do with doubt is what matters most (vs 11)

¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

The hardest step of faith is the next step of faith (vs 12)

The way to move from worry to worship is to mix the wonder of God with God's Word (vs 1-12)

Put into Practice: Ask yourself,

☐ Get saved.

☐ Get right.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Read Luke 24:1-5

1. What do the women at the tomb teach us about faith mixed with doubt?

Read Luke 24:6-8

2. Why do the angels tell the women to “remember” Jesus’ words?

Read Luke 24:8

3. According to Romans 10:17, how does faith grow, and what does that mean for our daily lives?
4. How do we see this applied in Luke 24:8

Read Luke 24:9-10

5. Why is it significant that women were the first witnesses of the empty tomb?

Read Luke 24:11-12

6. What should we do with doubt, worry, and unanswered questions?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God’s Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leaders Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions – These answers are not designed for you to read, but to help you put them into your own words and feel confident that we are all on the same page.

1. What do the women at the tomb teach us about faith mixed with doubt?

Biblical answer:

The women came to the tomb in love and devotion, but they were also perplexed and confused when they found it empty. Luke says they were “perplexed” and frightened, yet they still came and took the next step in front of them (Luke 24:1–5). The sermon’s point is that it is possible to love God and still wrestle with doubt. Faith is not pretending certainty about everything, faith is continuing to move toward Jesus and obey His Word even when we do not understand everything yet. True faith often looks like taking the next step while still asking questions.

2. Why do the angels tell the women to “remember” Jesus’ words?

Biblical answer:

The angels direct the women back to what Jesus had already said: that He would be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day (Luke 24:6–8). The turning point in the passage is verse 8: “And they remembered his words.” The sermon rightly stresses that the way forward in faith is to remember the Word of God. We do not need bigger faith so much as we need to anchor the faith we have in the promises of Christ. God strengthens His people by bringing His Word back to mind at the right time.

3. According to Romans 10:17, how does faith grow, and what does that mean for our daily lives?

4. How do we see this applied in Luke 24:8

Biblical answer:

Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” The

sermon applies this by saying that it is hard to remember the Word of God if we have not first heard the Word of God. Faith is strengthened as we repeatedly hear Scripture read, preached, spoken, and remembered. This means believers should place themselves regularly under biblical teaching, open the Bible with intentionality, and keep returning to the gospel. Hearing is not passive background noise, it is receiving the message of Christ so that our hearts are shaped by it.

5. Why is it significant that women were the first witnesses of the empty tomb?

Biblical answer:

Luke specifically names Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women as the first ones to report the resurrection news to the apostles (Luke 24:9–10). In that culture, women’s testimony was often marginalized, yet God chose them to be the first human witnesses of the empty tomb. That shows both the truthfulness of the Gospel accounts and the heart of Jesus. If this story were invented to impress the culture, it would not have been written this way. Instead, Jesus honors the lowly, gives dignity to women, and shows that the message of salvation is for all people. The truth of God does not bend to the culture; it confronts and reshapes it.

6. What should we do with doubt, worry, and unanswered questions?

Biblical answer:

The disciples initially dismissed the women’s report as an “idle tale,” but Peter got up and ran to the tomb (Luke 24:11–12). The Bible makes an important distinction, doubt itself is not the final problem; what we do with doubt matters most. Peter did not stay frozen. He took a step, then began marveling and **wondering** at what God was doing. The pathway from worry to worship is to mix wonder with God’s Word. Instead of letting fears speak the loudest, we let the promises of Christ interpret our circumstances. We move toward worship by remembering Scripture and by wondering how God may use even confusing situations for His glory and our good.