

Dig Deeper @Home – “Cries of the Heart”

Complement to lesson on 3/31/24 (Easter Sunday) – “The Risen One”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is your favorite Easter memory? What makes it special?
2. Describe a time you were overcome by fear. What was it like?

MEMORIZE – Psalm 42:5

Why are you downcast, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

READ – Mark 16:1-8

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. In verse 3, the women approaching the tomb are pondering a question.
 - a. What is the question?
 - b. What does their question reveal about what they believed they would (or would not) find at the tomb?
 - c. How were their expectations met? (Or shattered?)
3. In verse 7, the “young man” tells the women that the resurrected Christ will meet them in Galilee, “just as he told you.” Can you think of any instances where Jesus foretold this meeting?
(Hint: 26 Matthew / 14 Mark)
4. “Jesus *was* crucified... but He **has** risen!” (v6)
 - a. What does this mean for us today?
 - b. What are a few of your favorite Bible verses that best capture the implications of Jesus’s resurrection and empty tomb? (If you don’t have any... take a few minutes to discover some today.)

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Overcoming Fear : He is Risen!

The women at the tomb were afraid, and trembling and astonishment seized them. For this reason, “they said nothing to anyone.” Perhaps you can relate to them?

While none of us have the honor of being the first to witness the empty tomb of Jesus, all who follow Him have, in one sense, come face to face with reality of His resurrection. Perhaps we too find ourselves paralyzed by fear from sharing the good news?

This week, use the “open door” of the Easter holiday to spark conversations that point to Christ. Tell of an experience with Jesus or His body, the church, as you recap your weekend to a co-worker, or tell a friend or neighbor of the hope that you have found in His forgiveness.

Friends, this is a “softball...” It will never be easier than now!

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Glorious Day - <https://youtu.be/gkJJ2XZwDHc>

He Lives! - <https://youtu.be/iTmSa5dhtYM?si=zFNji1D7uUCR01WE>

Listen: Wolves at the Gate- Dead Man (Reprise) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygKQDbGL_aY

If Ye Then With Christ Be Risen – Mennonite Hymnal - 564

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

“Dear Lord, help me to tell of Your wondrous power and mighty acts to those generations that come after me. May I not let the season pass by without pondering the real meaning of Easter. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.” – Karen Ehman