

## Easter / Why Are You Looking For Life Among The Dead?

**Luke 24:1-11**



### INTRODUCTION

**As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.**

**ICE BREAKER QUESTION:** Can you imagine an experience like this? Can you fathom what it would feel like to have a loved one return from death?

After the death of Jesus on the cross, His disciples were distraught. Hope was lost. The story wasn't supposed to end that way. The darkness that hung in the air had permeated the fledgling group of Christ-followers. But at dawn on Sunday morning, a few attentive women received a message and a command that would change everything. Seeing that the stone had been rolled away, the women learned that Jesus was no longer in the grave—He had risen. Not only had He risen, but He had already gone ahead of them, and they were to share the good news. This is the gospel message that was to go out to the ends of the earth. Death had been defeated. Christ had been raised. Indeed, there is no greater hope for a broken world.

**Read back through the passage before going through the questions.**

---

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is your biggest takeaway? How was your experience with the Life Tool's this past week?**
- 2. Why do you think the resurrection is something all people naturally long for?**
- 3. The women who visited the tomb brought spices with them. What does that tell us they believed about Jesus' death? How did their lives change when they saw otherwise?**

A crucified messiah was simply a contradiction in terms, and Jesus' disciples couldn't get past their expectations of what a messiah ought to be like. Because of this, when Jesus was

killed, they followed the same pattern of other Jewish revolutionary movements that had gone before them. There was one basic response to the death of a would-be messiah in ancient Judaism: quit the movement. When one's leader fell at the hands of the enemy, especially for all to see, the people saw it as a sign that God had publicly abandoned the leader. The death of a leader would serve as a gauntlet that God was not behind this individual and was perhaps with some other leader instead. Hence, one would never want to continue following a crucified messiah.

- 4. Have you ever had a similar experience in your life, when a lack of spiritual awareness led to a loss of joy? In what area of your life are you most susceptible to this?**

How could the disciples be ready to witness the event that would forever change the world? That their Jesus, who they walked and talked with over the course of three years, was the one who would not just reform Israel, but would redeem all humanity. That Jesus not only faced death with courage, but went through death and came out of the other side of it victorious! How could His disciples be prepared to understand that Jesus, indeed, was cursed by God and that this was His plan all along? That on the cross, Jesus was not just a victim of an unjust verdict, but was a willing recipient of God's wrath on behalf of all sinners. The scope of Jesus' death and resurrection was just too big—their expectations and faith were just too small to take it in. For the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus explained all of this from the whole of the Scriptures. Every section of God's Word pointed to God's Son doing exactly what they had just witnessed.

- a. How might you exhibit faith in the midst of a very difficult circumstance?**

- 5. When you feel as though Jesus is absent from your life, are you more likely to cling hopefully to the promise that He lives, or give up, sad and dejected, like the disciples did? What helps you realize He's walking right beside you?**
- 6. Perhaps you have considered it pointless to follow Jesus because He didn't come through the way you expected in a particular situation. Have you ever felt like "quitting the movement" of following Christ? How were you encouraged to keep going?**
- 7. In what areas do you find yourself looking for life in the midst of death? What habits, sin patterns, and unhealthy behaviors do you continue to foster, instead of submitting them to Jesus?**

8. **With whom could you share the miracle of Christ's resurrection this week? How can sharing about His resurrection show others the plan of God?**
  - a. **Because this resurrection actually happened, what place does Jesus have over our lives? This week, make a list of the implications Jesus' resurrection has for you personally.**

## **Conclusion**

If Christ is still dead, death reigns, and all our joys are vain. So hoard every plastic Easter egg you find, because whatever you find inside is all the joy you have to grab. Or, as Paul says, "If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die'" ([1 Corinthians 15:32](#)).

But if death is dead, and if the dead are raised — if Christ is risen from the dead! — brothers and sisters, let us feast and celebrate, for the dawning light of our inextinguishable and inexhaustible eternal pleasures have broken into the darkness, offering us a life of joy in Christ that cannot fade or rust or be stolen away!

Today, delight in the resurrection joy of Christ, pray it bigger in your life, and treasure it for all eternity.

## **PRAYER**

Reflect on the resurrection. Thank Jesus for what His resurrection means, and thank Him for how His resurrection has rocked your story. Finally, praise Jesus for always keeping His word— for doing what He says He will do.

Pray and thank God that Jesus is alive and the stone has been rolled away. Ask Him to show where He is leading you and to give you the faith to follow Him obediently, despite your fears and past failures.



## **FURTHER STUDY**

### **Article –**

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/he-is-not-dead>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/have-you-found-what-youre-looking-for>

### **Video –**

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/standing-firm-2012-west-conference/for-the-resurrection-of-christ>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-do-we-celebrate-easter>