



Small Group Study Guide for April 4, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Jesus' resurrection is the foundation of our hope and life. Because Jesus is risen from the dead, we can know that He truly is our Savior and the Lord's promised Messiah. Because Jesus is risen from the dead we can have a certain and living hope in His promises to give eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What was Easter like when you were a kid? How did your family celebrate and what do you remember most about it?
2. What traditions were you able to still do at Easter this year, even though the pandemic continues? What are the traditions that you would like to bring back in the future?

In the Word: Read Mark 16:1-8

3. Look at the details that set the scene in verses 1-3. Who, what, why, when? What was the key question that the women were discussing?
4. Have someone read **Matthew 28:5-7**, another read **Mark 16:6-7**, and **Luke 24:5-7**. What is in common with these accounts, and what is different?
5. Mark's account of the Resurrection ends with the women running from the tomb, trembling and afraid, and saying nothing to anyone. It seems to be an odd and abrupt ending. Look in your Bible for a footnote or special brackets that explain how the Gospel was finished later with verses 9-20. This is an example of the differences in ancient manuscripts that sometimes appear. Christians are honest about that, as indicated here, and none of these differences affect Christian doctrine. Even though Mark probably ended his Gospel with the women running from the tomb, they presumably followed the angel's instructions, went to the disciples, and told them about going to Galilee. But the abrupt ending leaves it to the reader to decide for themselves what they make of all this. Since the Gospels were written during the lifetime of the apostles, they would get to fill in the rest of the story themselves, live! Why do you think the women left shaking and so afraid?

6. Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-8** to read Paul's account of the Resurrection. Make a list of the people he says saw Jesus alive after his resurrection.

Putting it all Together (what we should believe or do as disciples)

7. The women were discussing the big stone over the grave, and who would roll it away for them. What are the big problems that we face in life, that seem immovable or impossible, that Jesus' resurrection rolls away for us?
8. The angel invites the women to "Come and see" and then "Go and tell." How do we as Jesus' witnesses today invite people to "Come and See" with regards to checking out Jesus and the Christian message? What resources do we have for people who want to check out the claims of Christianity and investigate the resurrection even more?
9. How do we invite people to "Go and tell" with regards to sharing that good news? What are some of the ways people get to do that in our day?
10. Death is still very much a part of our world. How does Jesus' resurrection help us to "grieve with hope" when we experience death and loss?
11. How else does the message of Easter and Jesus' resurrection bring hope into people's lives?

Prayer: Praise God for the living hope we have in Jesus' Christ and His resurrection from the dead. Ask God to bring the peace and comfort of Jesus' resurrection to all who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially during this Easter season. Pray for those who are invited to "come and see" and investigate the claims of Christianity, who are curious about the Christian faith, and who are wrestling with the reality of Jesus' resurrection. Also pray for those who "Go and tell" the good news, that Jesus is alive! And that we have immeasurable hope in Him.

Next Week: The Easter season continues with the account of Jesus' appearance to Thomas and the disciples, showing them His hands and His side. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!