



Small Group Study Guide for April 20, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Easter is full of surprises! The very best surprise is that Jesus is alive and grants us eternal life. Even though He predicted His suffering, death, and resurrection (and it was all there in the Old Testament prophecies too!), the disciples were surprised by Jesus' resurrection. How does God continue to surprise us today?

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What are your childhood memories of celebrating Easter?
2. What are some of your favorite Easter songs or worship traditions?

In the Word: Read Luke 24:1-12

3. Who were these women disciples and how did they know how to find Jesus' tomb? Look at **Luke 23:49, 23:55-56, and Luke 24:10** to get some background.
4. Read **Luke 9:22** and **24:6-7**. Jesus predicted His death and resurrection on several occasions. Why do you think the disciples didn't grasp or understand what Jesus was saying at that time?
5. Each of the four Gospels tell the events of Easter morning with various details. Luke mentions two angels. Other Gospels record only one angel (the one who spoke). Some mention several women going to the tomb. John's Gospel mentions only Mary Magdalene. Luke mentions Peter running to the tomb. John adds that the apostle John ran with Peter, but did not go in. These are not contradictions, or mutually exclusive. They are all true, but each author has a different focus or chooses to include certain details in their account. That's how eyewitness testimony works. You get the same facts, but told from different perspectives, with different details in each person's testimony. In light of that, how does the fact that the four Gospel accounts differ actually lend to their credibility?
6. Luke does not record Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene after the events at the tomb, as John's Gospel does. However, Luke does record an appearance to two disciples just moments later, in **Luke 24:13-35**. Briefly review and summarize this post-resurrection appearance of Jesus and note any similarities to the resurrection account in **Luke 24:1-12**.

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

7. Easter changes everything! How does Jesus' resurrection bring us hope for each day, and for eternity?
8. When the women told the disciples the news, they thought the women's words sounded like "nonsense." (24:11). What teachings of the Christian faith seem to the rest of the world like "nonsense" and how do we respond to that?
9. The Gospels mention the burial shroud of Jesus, as something significant lying in the tomb after Jesus rose. Have you heard about the Shroud of Turin, and do you know anything about it?
10. We often get stuck in grief and shock over the sad and bad things in life. Like the women, we need to "remember His words." We can't muster faith ourselves, but we need someone to speak it to us, to remind us, and to encourage us. That's why Christians gather weekly. How do we "remember His words" in weekly worship and throughout the week?
11. How has God surprised you lately?

Prayer: Praise God for the gift of eternal life that Jesus won for us by His death and resurrection. Thank God for the special services we were able to experience as we remembered the words of the Lord. Thank Him also for musicians and volunteers who make those services happen. Ask God for the Holy Spirit to create and strengthen faith in everyone who hears of the Good News of Easter.

Next Week: Easter is six weeks long! It cannot be contained in just one Sunday. We continue the Easter celebration with the account of Jesus appearing to the disciples – first without, then with Thomas. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe!

Note: Friendship Sunday is April 27! A pancake breakfast will be held between the services. Whether or not you invite a friend, you are welcome to join us!