

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Easter Sunday

These questions are for the **April 4, 2021** sermon, "On the First Day of the Week." Please read the sermon passage (John 20:1-18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN ALL HOPE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED, PONDER . . .

1. The material evidence that renews our faith (1-10)
 - a. The tomb of Jesus Christ is empty.
 - i. God tore the temple veil from the top (he removed the barrier between us).
 - ii. Earthquakes and emptied tombs attested to by many witnesses. (Matt 27:61)
 - iii. Heavy stones, emperor's orders and life-endangered guards tried to prevent it.
 - b. Jesus rose from the dead and walked out of his own tomb.
 - i. The stone is rolled away so that people could come and examine the evidence.
 - ii. All his detractors would have to do was to produce his body and explain . . .
 - iii. Instead . . .
 1. Hundreds testify that they saw him.
 2. His followers are emboldened and committed to bear witness.
 3. Every person for all time can have hope as they trust Jesus.
 - c. Jesus is the promised Messiah from God, the very Son of God! Comd and see!
2. The transformational encounters that refresh our faith (11-18)
 - a. Mary is greatly troubled (sorrowful) assuming opponents have moved Jesus' body.
 - i. "Why are you weeping?" and "Who are you looking for?"
 - ii. Questions which clarify our hearts in the midst of grief are crucial.
 - b. After Mary's interaction with the risen Jesus, she did not ask anyone to interpret. Instead, Mary come to the disciples and announces, "I have seen the Lord."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Believers sometimes take all the physical evidence about Jesus Christ's resurrection for granted. But how is your faith fed and strengthened and informed by the material evidence? Why is it important to review this evidence regularly?
2. Based on #1, above: Unbelievers will never receive (trust, fully rely upon) the Lord Jesus Christ if he is merely a friend, or a guy with a plan for their lives. We must help them see that he is the Promised One from God, the only One who can pay for their sins, the only One who has defeated death. Why is it important for you to talk about the material evidence of Jesus' resurrection with unbelievers? How does this dialogue plant seeds? How does it prepare hearts? With whom are you discussing these things?
3. Based on #2, above: On Easter Sunday, believers all around the globe celebrate, treasure and proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This realization helps heal the grieving heart, changes our expectations for our physical lives and obliterates any fear of the future, especially sickness and physical death. In what way is your understanding of the resurrection of Jesus increasing your joy, healing your heart and releasing you from fear?
4. Based on #2, above: Mary was certain that she had seen the Lord. Are you?