

Discussion Guide
Here & Now: Easter at Revive
March 31, 2024



Big Idea

Dead is dead, or is it?



Icebreaker

What are some family traditions surrounding Easter that you fondly remember? Are there any you continue to practice still today?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 27:45-66. Discuss this set of passages. Is there any mistaking that Christ has died and that his entombed body is not at risk of being stolen, misplaced, etc.? How does this add to the dramatic nature of the miracle that he in fact rose from the dead? What do you make of: 1) the darkness over the land, 2) the curtain being torn, 3) the earth shaking, 4) the rocks being split, 5) the tombs being opened? What was the centurion's (and those with him) response to all of this? How did or has Jesus "come alive" in your life resulting in a similar response?
2. Read Matthew 28:1-6. What invitation does the angel of the Lord make to the women that the Lord still makes us and all today to prove that "dead is not dead" when it comes to Christ? What does responding to that invitation look like; entail today?
3. Every Easter (Resurrection Sunday) is a fresh opportunity to come & see Jesus' resurrection for the first time, or again. Seeing that the path has been paved for the forgiveness of sin and that we no longer have to live in darkness but can live in the light is powerful and never gets old! So, with Easter this year, how is this resulting in a new or renewed result in you?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:13-14. New Testament scholar N.T. Wright is quoted as stating the following: *"The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom...it is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven. The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it."* What is Christianity without the resurrection of Christ?
5. Read Matthew 28:7-10. What do both the angel of the Lord, and then later Christ, tell the women to do? How do you think they felt about receiving this direction? Despite how they may have felt about it, what did they do? What should you do with this same direction that God gives you? How can you effectively do this? What concerns, fears; hurdles do you have in doing this and what could be done to address such things?



Concluding Question

Read Hosea 13:14. Dead is not dead! What are the two possible eternal futures for all? Do you struggle with this in any way? If so, how and why?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Many will have likely placed their faith in Jesus this Easter or recommitted themselves to his path. Pray that those who have done so are planted well and firmly resulting in meaningful living!