



JOURNEY TO THE EMPTY TOMB

Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

"Do unto others... Love is patient, love is kind. Turn the other cheek." It's easy to appreciate Jesus' teachings until the Bible writers tell us that he rose from the dead. For some, the idea of a person rising from the dead is so hard to believe that they cherry-pick only the teachings of Jesus but they refute the resurrection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your favourite Easter memory? What Easter traditions—religious or secular—do you currently observe? What meaning do they hold for you?
2. Did you hear anything in Ps. Daniel's message that inspired you? Did anything bother you? Explain.
3. Is it easier for you to believe in Jesus' teachings than in his resurrection? Why or why not?
4. Read John 20:1-18.
 - a. Mary Magdalene was the first to see the resurrected Jesus. She was a woman and a woman had no credibility in those days. If you want to make up the resurrection, John could've put himself or other male disciples to be the first witness. Why didn't he do this?
 - b. Were any of the disciples expecting Jesus to be raised to life? Why not? Again, if the resurrection is made up, what should John have written?
5. Read John 2:19-22. Three years before his execution on Jesus predicted that he could and that he would come back from the dead. If Jesus really rose from the dead, what are some other promises Jesus has made that you know you can count on?
6. There's a world of a difference between acknowledging the fact that Jesus rose from the dead to personally believing in him and beginning to follow him.
 - a. Have you decided to put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour? If not, what stops you from doing it? How can this group help you?
 - b. If you are a Christ-follower, what are some of your biggest challenges to be a whole-hearted follower of Jesus Christ knowing that the Spirit that raised him from the dead lives in you? Again, how can this group help you?

MOVING FORWARD

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, I can believe his other promises and my faith is not in vain. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, I am not trusting in a dead man. I am trusting in someone who is alive and live forever to forgive me and help me each day!

Changing Your Mind

1Cor. 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.