

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- How certain are you that, after this life is over, you will be resurrected to eternal life with Jesus. What can you do this week to bolster your faith in this area?
- What can you do this week to help you move from doubt to worship in regards to the resurrected Christ?
- How can you more compellingly share the message of Jesus' resurrection, the Greatest Comeback in history, with others like your friends and family? Co-workers and neighbors? Who might you share with this week?

PRAYER

- Take time to list all the areas of doubt or disbelief in your heart. Ask God to show up in those areas and reveal Himself to you.
- Are there any areas in your life that you might describe as dead, destroyed, or lost that you would like to ask God to restore? Ask God to help you make a comeback!
- Do you know any other people who need a comeback because they are spiritually dead, struggling with broken dreams, damaged relationships, or sick or injured bodies? Lift them up in prayer, asking God to resurrect them.
- Ask God to point out people in your life who may not know the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Ask for boldness and confidence to share the good news.

NOTES



Week 1: Jesus

CONNECT

- What is the first thing that you do on a Sunday morning?
- Which do you tend to believe more: What you hear? What you see? What you want?

WORD

"⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."⁸

"¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep."¹⁴

"¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted."¹⁸

"¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:5-7, 11-13, 16-20 (NIV)

THOUGHT

The concept of Christ rising from the dead on the third day is not always easy for us to grasp. How would we have reacted if we were the ones to find the empty tomb? Even Jesus’ disciples were surprised and doubtful when they heard the news. As humans, we tend to be slow to believe and quick to doubt, because we have the mindset that we need to visibly see or hear something in order to believe it. However, that is where the challenge of faith comes in: the assurance of things unseen. In this bible study, we will reflect on the resurrection of Jesus—the most important day in history for Christians, and the greatest comeback ever. It is the foundation of Christian hope. We’ll consider how the disciples responded to the resurrection on that first Easter Sunday morning and how we should respond to the resurrection today, 2000 years later.

1. How do you think the women felt on their way to the tomb?

- sad*
 - worried about facing the soldiers*
 - exhausted*
 - expectant*
 - sentimental*
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2. When they found the stone rolled back and an angel sitting on it, how do you think they felt?

- Scared to death*
 - Wondering who took the body*
 - overcome with grief—They could not take any more heartache*
 - overcome with joy—They knew Jesus would come back.*
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3. Why do you think the chief priests and elders spread the rumor that Jesus’ disciples stole his body (vs.11-13)?

- He was a threat to them*
 - He might file charges against them for falsely accusing him.*
 - The resurrection would prove that he really is the son of God*
 - They saw him as a trouble-maker and wanted to keep the peace*
 - Other _____*
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4. When the disciples first saw Jesus after the resurrection, why do you think they both doubted and worshipped (vs.17)?

5. The angel at the tomb told the women to see for themselves that Jesus had risen from the dead, then go quickly and tell the disciples. How do you think the disciples responded to the women’s amazing story? (vs.5-7)

- “The stress and grief have made you crazy.”*
 - “I wonder who stole Jesus’ body?”*
 - “We better go figure out what is going on here.”*
 - “Jesus rose from the dead just like he said he would!”*
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6. Would you describe your response toward Jesus’ resurrection as more ‘doubt’ or more ‘worship’? Did you come to your response quickly or slowly, as a gut response or a logical conclusion? (vs.17)

7. God sent an angel to tell the women that Jesus had risen from the dead, but sent the women to tell the disciples. Now God asks us to tell others. Why is it important that we tell others about the resurrection? How would you tell others?
