

INTRODUCTION

The Christian faith hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without it, our faith is nothing. Do you have the power of the resurrection bolstering all you do for Him? Are you a resurrection revealer?

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What was your favorite childhood tradition at Easter?
2. Read Matthew 28:1-15. Each of the Gospels (Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-111, John 20:1-18) tells the resurrection story, but no two accounts are the same (timing differs, as well as the number of women, number of angels, etc.). Does this affect the validity of the story in your mind? Why or why not?
3. Why did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to “*look at the tomb*”? What do you think they expected to see?
4. Why do you think the angels were first to announce Christ’s resurrection, rather than Jesus doing it immediately in person?
5. David stated on Sunday that resurrection revelation includes worship and witness (the women “*clasped His feet and worshiped Him.... and ran to tell His disciples*”). Do these actions have a prominent place in your Christian walk?
6. German Theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg said, “*The evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things: First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live.*” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

If Jesus wasn’t resurrected, our faith is useless (1 Corinthians 15:14). But since Jesus did rise again, He’s worth following. If you haven’t made the decision to follow Him, consider doing so now. If you’ve already made that decision, are you living in the power of the resurrection? List ways you could improve at being a resurrection revealer.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Mary Magdalene is mentioned a number of times in the gospels. Look at the following verses and note what you learn about her: Matthew 27:56-61; Matthew 28:1; Mark 15:40-47; Mark 16:1-9; Luke 8:1-3; Luke 24:1-11; John 19:25; John 20:1-18. Many believe she was a prostitute. Do these verses support that claim?

2. Read the following verses and write how Jesus referred to His death and resurrection.

Matthew 12:39-40 _____

Matthew 16:21 _____

John 2:18-22 _____

John 10:17-18 _____

3. Why do you think those following Jesus did not understand and/or believe that He would die, let alone be resurrected?
4. Note that the Pharisees DID understand what Jesus was talking about (Matthew 27:62-64). Why do you think that the religious leaders and guards rejected the resurrection and came up with a plan to discredit it (Matthew 28:12-15)? Why do people today reject the resurrection?
5. What do you believe is the most convincing evidence for Jesus' resurrection?

SCRIPTURE

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 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." ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me." 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.' ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. Matthew 28:1-15