



Powerful

April 4, 2021

#npeaster

Bottom Line: Jesus' death and resurrection provide more than heaven—they give power to live life fully here and now.

Icebreaker: How did your family celebrate Easter when you were a child? What are you doing this year?

Key Verse: *I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God's power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm!* Ephesians 1:19-20 TPT

For followers of Christ, Easter represents the most amazing and incredible thing that has ever happened in all of human history. It's not a religious thing at all—it's NEW LIFE! A hope beyond our greatest merit. Hundreds upon hundreds of people before Jesus died on a cross. People were crucified on a daily basis in ancient Rome. But there was only One in all of history who predicted His own sacrificial death and resurrection! When He rose from the dead, He defeated sin and death in the most important event in all of history. Not only does the resurrected life of Christ give us hope for eternal life, but it also gives us the power to change here on earth. The Greek word (the language spoken then) for power that Paul uses in our key verse actually is "dunimas." It's the root word for what we now know as "dynamite." Dynamite can do in a matter of minutes what it would take a lifetime to do with a pickaxe. THAT IS the kind of power God released when He rose Christ from the dead. It's a power that can change and break habits that would otherwise take a lifetime to overcome. It's the power that can turn death to life. It can quite literally change your destiny and legacy. Not just for eternity, but right NOW. God's power can **CANCEL YOUR PAST**: all your sins, mistakes, failures, and regrets. It's not pretending it never happened—it is being forgiven completely. This power can **CONQUER YOUR PROBLEMS**. Everyone has problems in this broken world. Trying to handle them on our own only leaves us fatigued and burnt out. God may not remove the condition, but trusting Christ's power will enable us to face and overcome it. God's power can **CHANGE YOUR PERSONHOOD**: your identity and character. The initial starting point in becoming who we want to be is when we surrender our lives to Christ for salvation. Then we engage in a lifetime process of growing in the fruit of the Spirit. The biggest thing that will derail you is procrastination—you must overcome your inertia and let God begin the work now. God is able and anxious to use His power for you—to take every broken thing and make your life more fulfilling and beautiful than you can imagine. That's what Easter is about.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of the Easter message to you?

Why do you think so many people get stuck on "a ticket for heaven" when thinking about what Jesus did for them through His death and resurrection?

Do you have an area in your life that was impossible for you to handle before Christ? What did His power do for you? Share.

What are the typical results in a person's life when they can't let go of the past?

When a person starts living free of shame from the past, how do life and relationships change?

How do you grow your trust in Christ to conquer your problems?

What area of your personhood (identity and character) have undergone the most change since Jesus?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Why do you suppose we are so prone to procrastination in working with God when we are willing to admit how badly we need Him?

Share the moment when you initiated Christ's work in your life by receiving His forgiveness and salvation. If you have not yet done that, this is a great moment to do so with your group.

Where is God helping you work on your personhood, identity, and character right now? The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 is a good place to consider.

You are never a failure until you give up. Is that hard for you to receive? If so, why?

How did God speak to you through the video?

Whom do you know who needs this good news? How can you share?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate your life. Is there any area that remains uncommitted to Christ? Where are you procrastinating?
2. Remind yourself that working with God is a lifelong process. Recommit to it now.
3. With whom will you share this amazing Easter news? Invite them to church with you next Sunday.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Jesus' death and resurrection provide more than heaven—they give power to live life fully here and now.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Colossians 2:13-14

Tuesday: John 16:33; Rom. 12:21; 1 Cor. 15:57

Wednesday: 2 Peter 1:5-8

Thursday: Titus 2:11-13

Friday: Ephesians 3:17

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)