



Easter

24/7/365

Week 1
1 of 1

March 27, 2016

Icebreaker: What is the most amazing thing you have learned lately?

Key Verse: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26

Throughout the gospels, Jesus interacts with a set of siblings – Mary, Martha, and Lazarus – from the town of Bethany. John 11 provides probably the most-well known of these interactions when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Upon Lazarus's death, Jesus went to be with His friends, and on His way into town, Martha came to meet Jesus on the road. She knew that if Jesus had been with them, Lazarus would not have died. Jesus assured her that Lazarus would rise again, and Martha acknowledged she was aware of the final resurrection of the dead the Jews believed would take place one day.

Martha wanted to have an abstract theological discussion with Jesus, but what Jesus wanted her to realize was that the resurrection was not some event in the future, but a person who was standing right in front of her. So often we get caught up in busyness of the Easter season, and we forget to dwell deeply upon and believe in the Person the resurrection reveals.

Because Jesus lived a sinless life, He did not earn His death, but He accepted it willingly. In His death Jesus bore the sins of the world and made atonement for them fully and finally. Because He had no sin of His own, God raised Jesus to live and vindicated Him. The resurrection is the single most important event that has ever happened, but if it remains only an event to us, we have missed the point. So how do you answer the question that Jesus asked Martha? Do you believe He is the resurrection? Your life depends on how you answer that one question. Jesus is the resurrection, and He brings new life to all who believe. Believe in Him today.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we need to accept God's love; this defeats fear. Embrace God's truth; this defeats lies. Experience God's power; this defeats fatigue.

How did Jesus bring resurrection? How did Jesus bring life?

What did the resurrection prove to be true about Jesus?

How do you answer the same question that Jesus asked Martha in John 11?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

How is Jesus bringing you life every day?

What hope does Jesus give the Christian beyond this life? What hope does the non-Christian have? How should the answer to these two questions impact our daily experience?

When we share the gospel with other people, we often shrink back at the time where we should be asking people, "Do you believe this?" Why are we so afraid to ask that question?

What must be true about Jesus for Him to be the resurrection and the life?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Praise God for the gift of the resurrection. Worship the God who stands victorious over death and the grave. Thank Him for being the one true way to God and for His forgiveness of your sin. Ask Him to help you rely upon Him at all times.
2. Jesus asked Martha if she believed in Him. What are some things we can do each week to help each other deepen our confidence and belief in the resurrection? Commit to hold one another accountable, and embody the truth of the resurrection as a community.

EVALUATION/ACTION **Allow the resurrection to transform your life.**

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	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:

FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- Matthew 28:1-6
- John 20:1-29
- Luke 24:1-13
- Mark 16:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 15

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)