



RISK

The Event

#nprisk

Week 2
2 of 4
March 12, 2017

Bottom Line: Your witness hinges on what others witness in you.

Icebreaker: What is the most unusual thing about you—something you have done that most people would never know?

Key Verse: *"We cannot stop talking about everything we have seen and heard."* Acts 4:20

Peter was petrified when the Rabbi he had been following was arrested. Just a few short months before, Peter had warned Jesus of this possibility if He continued onward to Jerusalem. He was terrified by the rage of people who were rejecting the Rabbi He had been following. When they came to arrest this man Jesus, Peter caved. All of the loyalty he had claimed to Jesus dissipated in the heat of the accusations and persecution. When Jesus was arrested and taken away to be tried and crucified, Peter first denied Him, insisting He never even knew Jesus, and then he ran and hid.

But now, Peter was totally changed. He had been transformed. He was filled with courage and enthusiasm and a compulsion to tell everyone something amazing. He wasn't obsessed with telling them what he believed. He was compelled to tell them what he had seen and witnessed for himself. He was a first-hand witness to the fact that Jesus, once dead, had come back to life again. The resurrection of Jesus was the game changer for Peter. It wasn't what he believed. It was a personal experience he had witnessed and shared. It was actual history.

That's the same news we have now! We are not impelled to share our theology or our church's statement of faith or what we believe—we're happy to share what we know for certain. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was an actual historical event that changed everything. It proved Jesus was who He said He was. It proved He is the champion over life and death. We don't risk it all to share a theological opinion. We take the risk to share the greatest fact of all time: Jesus Christ IS who He claimed to be. Jesus keeps His promises. There is life after death. It was the essence of the New Testament church message, and ours as well (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what struck you most powerfully?

Peter and John and all the early disciples were not sharing their opinions or beliefs. They were sharing what they KNEW—what they had experienced first-hand. Today we are not sharing a belief system we think is superior—we are sharing an event that changed history!

They KNEW it. That's why they couldn't stop. Only personal knowledge and experience would make them confident enough to risk their very lives for the message they were sharing.

"Salvation isn't found in a message, it is found in a person." How does that make Christianity different than any other religion? "Salvation is found in no one else" (Acts 4:21). How do you answer the accusations of exclusivity made against Christianity?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What are some ways you can think of that people believe will bring them salvation? How would you answer them?

"The only way to know history is for someone to tell you. You will never just come to a conclusion without someone giving you the facts." How does that speak to you about the need to share this great historical event?

"Our goal is not to argue or answer all their questions—that is not the point. The point is, something has happened in history that changes everything for today and tomorrow." How can that give us confidence to share the news of Jesus' death and resurrection?

What evidence do you have that Peter's message is true?

NEXT STEPS

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

- 1) Make a short list of why the Resurrection of Jesus is so important to you, and the things you have “seen and heard” that convince you He is alive.
- 2) Pray together for the Easter service, as it is being planned right now, to be powerfully used by God.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Your witness hinges on what others witness in you.

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:

Day 1: Matthew 5:14-16

Day 2: Acts 1:8

Day 3: John 13:20

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1

Day 5: Philippians 3:17-18

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)