

TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 31, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Matthew 28:1-6

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, 1 Corinthians 15:1-20a. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- We often view grace with skepticism, thinking that it is too good to be true. At Easter we celebrate this grace as we encounter the good news that Jesus defeated death and evil by His own death and resurrection, offering us new life. The Bible teaches us that this message is both good and true (Romans 10:9-10)
- In 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul is considering the question, "what if Jesus did not rise from the dead?" He speculates that:
 - Verse 14: Preaching and faith would be useless because there would be nothing to believe in or preach about
 - Verse 17: Humanity would remain stuck in their sins, without hope
 - Verse 19: Christians are pitiful people, basing their lives on a lie
- But Jesus did rise from the dead. There is a lot of evidence to this end. **1)** The historic changing of worship from Saturday to Sunday, **2)** the historic celebration of Easter, **3)** Christian art documenting the risen Christ, **4)** the earliest Christian hymns documenting celebration and teaching of Jesus' bodily resurrection, **5)** Jewish historians writing about Jesus' resurrection, **6)** the enduring Christian Church and its creeds through history **7)** Jesus' own claims that He would rise again (Matt. 27:62-65), **8)** the resurrected Jesus' appearance to eye witnesses (1 Cor. 15:6), and lastly, **9)** the fact of the empty tomb (that the opponents of Jesus admitted the tomb was empty and could not produce Jesus' dead body)
- *Since Jesus is, in fact, greater than the grave, and did rise from the dead, how do we respond?*
 - To the skeptic, these facts may convince you, but shouldn't coerce you. It is okay to have some doubts about the resurrection, but don't dismiss it. Engage in your own investigation. The further we explore the evidence of Jesus' resurrection you will be faced with its reality.
 - To the one who wants to believe, take the step of faith and receive the grace. Jesus invites you to "come, follow me." Will your respond? By faith. Say "Yes" to Jesus. And make Him Lord of your life.
 - To the believer, live into the reality of the resurrection? What do you need to commit yourself to do more intentionally and passionately walk with Jesus. Perhaps you need to renew your commitment to Jesus. Your faith is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58)

Discussion Questions:

1. What Easter or Lenten traditions help you and your family to remember and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus?
2. What has resonated with you most from this message and 1 Corinthians 15:1-20a?
3. Which of the 9 evidences provided stood out to you the most, and which may respond to skepticisms you've heard from others?
4. Through this past weekend we have remembered Jesus' sacrifice, love, forgiveness and resurrection. What have you been reflecting on the most during this Easter season?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.

