

Small Group Questions

Series: The Gospel According to Luke

Title: My Living Hope | Luke 24:1-12

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ACTIVITY

Ask these questions of your group:

This Easter was anything but traditional. Ask your small group how they celebrated Easter this year that was different than the norm?

Or, do this activity with your group:

Ask your small group to grab a non-religious object within arm's reach. After they have chosen their object, challenge them to come up with a creative way to share the Easter message using that object as a prop. This will be a fun activity that is sure to stretch the mind and get some laughs!

DISCUSSION

1. Read Luke 24:1-3. A. For what reason was the stone rolled away? B. Did Jesus need that to exit the tomb? See John 20:19. (Intent: A. So that people could enter and see that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. B. No; Jesus' body was able to overcome physical laws.)
2. Read Luke 24:4-12. A. Considering that Jesus told them multiple times He would rise from the dead on the third day, why do you think the women and apostles found it so hard to believe He had in fact risen? B. Describe a time when you were amazed that the Lord fulfilled a promise. (Intent: A. Luke 9:22 provides an example of Jesus telling them He would be killed and then rise. Luke 9:44-45 points out their lack of understanding.)
3. Why is the Resurrection of Christ central to the Christian faith? (Intent: The Resurrection validates Christ's claims, including being the Son of God and dying for our sins. Christ is the "firstfruit from the dead," and points toward His resurrecting His followers. See 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and 20-23. Christianity is the only major personality-based religion that claims a resurrected founder.)
4. How does the Resurrection impact you personally? (Intent: A biblical example is Peter; contrast his denial of Christ in Lk. 22:55-60 and his powerful speech in Acts 2:14ff after the Resurrection.)
5. Read Luke 22:7-8. What is the significance of the Crucifixion and Resurrection happening during the Passover celebration? How is the ultimate "Passover" of the Crucifixion and Resurrection similar to the Passover of the Jews in Egypt? See Exodus 12:7 and 12-13. (Intent: The blood of lambs sacrificed by the Jews in Egypt caused the Angel of Death to pass over them, delivering them from death. Similarly, the blood of Christ atones for our sins and delivers us from spiritual death. The earthly lambs pointed to the heavenly Lamb. In orchestrating these two events to take place at the same time of year, God provided another sign of Jesus being the fulfillment of His plan of salvation begun in the OT as a

shadow of the substance in the NT. Also, Passover brought many people to Jerusalem who would witness or hear firsthand accounts of the Resurrection. See 1 Cor. 5:7.)

PRAYER

Considering the current coronavirus pandemic, we find particular hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As you celebrate Easter this year, take time to reflect in prayer on the reality that is the life, death, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ. Ask the Lord to connect your heart and actions in a real way to His sacrificial love for the hurting, the frightened, and the dying.