

you had to wait for God to move in a difficult or confusing time in your life? How did it affect your faith?

Speak Jesus

Mark 16:19-20 NLT - 19 When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. 20 And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.

After Jesus returned to heaven, the resurrection took hold in the hearts of his disciples. They preached Jesus and He worked through them. Their words brought hope and power into the lives of those who heard.

Jesus defeated death. The power to raise Jesus from the dead is the same power that the Holy Spirit brings into our lives. Where can you speak Jesus into a life that needs forgiveness, transformation, healing and resurrection. Join with your group to pray now and for opportunities to speak Jesus and bring His hope and power into the lives of others.

WRAP-UP

Resurrection doesn't always happen when we expect it or the way we expect it. The women at the tomb were bewildered, and the disciples doubted. But in time, Jesus proved the power and the fact of His resurrection. And when the power and hope of Jesus' resurrection takes hold of your heart and you speak Jesus into the lives of others, power and healing and hope will follow.

MEMORY VERSE.

6 but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died." - Mark 16:6-7 NLT

Challenge.- Ask God to show you someone this week who need to hear you speak the hope and power of Jesus' resurrection into their lives.

“Some Resurrections Take Time”

Mark-Grace•Sacrifice•Hope- #7 Easter

INTRODUCTION

The resurrection is at the heart of Easter. It brings hope and assurance of God's love and His plans for our eternity with Him. But resurrection doesn't always happen as quickly as we'd like, or the way we expect. When the women went to the tomb Jesus body was gone, but they hadn't seen Him yet. And even though the angel told them He was going ahead of them, they were still frightened and bewildered as they ran away from the tomb. It took time to work through what the resurrection meant. Some resurrections in our own lives take time to work through too. But God is faithful and working even as we struggle with doubt and fear. And in the end, the hope of the resurrection prevails.

Ice Breaker

Did you ever have something returned to you that you had no hope of seeing again? (Perhaps literally like a lost pet, or figuratively like a restored relationship)

Key Passage

Mark 16:8 NLT - 8 The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Hopelessness, Doubts, and Fears

Mark 16:1-3 NLT - 1 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. 3 On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

In this passage, after Jesus' death and burial, we see the response of some of Jesus' most beloved followers; the women, as they grieved over their loss.

What was it they intended to do that day? What would they have been prepared to find when they arrived at the tomb?

After witnessing the crucifixion, the women must have known Jesus' body was brutalized, and yet they came to anoint it with spices. Imagine how painful it would be to view and handle Jesus' body at that time. Yet with determination and love they approached the task that would express their respect and reverence for their Lord. They expected to find Jesus crucified.

Mark 16:4-7 NLT - 4 But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. 5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 6 but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

In a matter of moments, what the women had prepared for had vanished, and instead of anointing a body they were confronted by an angel.

The text says the women were shocked. What were the things (there were several) in this passage that would have been shocking? Any of these might trigger fear or doubt in the women. Why should the last statement in this passage have instilled hope in the women (v.7b)? Has there been a situation in your life that was so unexpected and shocking that it caused you to "flee in fear"?

2. Some resurrections take time

Matthew 28:16-17 NLT - 16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him--but some of them doubted!

Over the next 40 days following the resurrection, Jesus appeared on several occasions. Not only to the women shortly after they visited the tomb, but also to his disciples and even to a crowd of more than 500! Jesus had gone ahead into Galilee just as He had told them before He

died. He had known what was going to happen. He had told them what was going to happen. But even after appearing to them, the scriptures say that some of them doubted. The Greek word used here for doubt- *distazō*, means to waver. It is not a settled unbelief but was probably the result of something so overwhelming and mysterious as to be "too good to be true".

Have you either heard a story about, or experienced, God moving in a way that seemed "too good to be true"? Perhaps a miraculous healing, or the salvation of someone you never thought could change? If so, describe what it felt like to accept that it was true. Did you have doubts and if so, did you express them or keep them to yourself? Did you come to accept what God had done eventually or is there still that nagging in you that says, it won't last? Is there still something in your "tomb" that feels impossible to resurrect?

3. Hope in Resurrection...

Jesus had known that His resurrection was beyond His crucifixion. On several occasions He had told His disciples that He would be raised from the dead. Those conversations should have instilled hope in the disciples.; not just a wishful thinking that it might happen, but a confident expectation that this will happen. But for many, even after seeing the resurrected Jesus, they found it difficult to accept. Before He ascended to heaven, Jesus proved to His disciples that He was alive! It took some doing and even then, they may have had doubts. But Jesus saw even further than His resurrection and return to heaven.

Acts 1:3-5 NLT - 3 During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. 4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

What was the promised gift the disciples needed to have hope in after Jesus departed to heaven?

It would be 50 days until Pentecost and the Holy Spirit's arrival. This resurrection certainly didn't match what most people were expecting. Jesus didn't overthrow the Romans, and now after returning to life He was leaving them again! And all they could do was wait.

How do you think the disciples felt during that time of waiting? Have