

Growth Group Discussion – Quick Tour of the Bible

Discussion 2 – The Resurrection of Jesus

Reading 8 Summary: John 20

Mary went to the tomb and found it empty and cried for she thought Jesus' body had been stolen. Jesus met her outside the tomb and told her to go tell his disciples that he will be ascending to the Father. He came and stood among the disciples and sent them out into the world as God had sent him.

Warm-Up

1. Have you ever seen someone's doppelgänger (celebrity or not) in person?
2. Growing up, what was your favorite thing about Easter?

Talk it Over

3. What from this week's readings stood out to you?
4. In John 20:16 Jesus calls out to Mary Magdalen, by name, in her moment of grief to calm her. Think of a time when Jesus comforted you during a moment or season of grief. How did that affect you?

Leader Note: Grief comes in a variety of forms. The grief that Mary is experiencing here is death, but there are lots of other smaller daily griefs that allow us to experience the comfort that Jesus is talking about. This can be a heavy topic so consider sharing a more common grief in which you have experienced God's comfort.

5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. What does this passage say about the perspective we should have when it comes to trouble or grief?

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

- The Greek word for comfort means to urge, encourage, or comfort. It is more than a hug or pat on the back. What are some practical ways that we can comfort each other with God's comfort that Paul is talking about in this passage?

Leader Note: Some in the group will struggle with the idea of being comforted. Think back to the resurrection and story of Mary. The comfort came from knowing the reality that Jesus was alive. He proved His power over death, He was present, and knew Mary by name. The comfort we receive from God and pass along to others stems from the same source as with Mary's. We can comfort others by reminding them of the truth, encouraging them to continue to follow Jesus, and sharing a story about how God worked through pain in our lives, etc.

6. Read John 20:24-29. What stands out to you about the story of Thomas?

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^(d)), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Leader Note: While the disciples had heard the prophecy of the Lord's resurrection, they were struggling with doubt. Doubt can have a troubling affect on our lives, which robs us of the peace that Christ offers.

- What is something that you doubted in your life, but came to believe when you saw it in person?

Take It Home

7. Thinking back to moments of doubt about God or faith in your life, what were some of the specifics that helped you?
8. What is one thing you can do this week from this discussion?