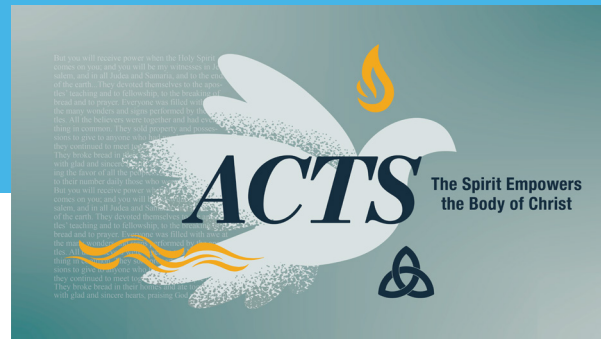


Discussion Questions

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday - Resurrection Life



1. Ice Breaker: What's one Easter tradition (family, church, or personal) that is meaningful to you and why?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-20. Summarize Paul's argument. Why does Paul say the resurrection is so essential to the Christian faith? How does this passage shape your understanding of Easter?
3. Read the Resurrection account in John 20:1-18.
Why would none of Jesus' followers believe that Jesus might have resurrected?

What does Jesus' command, "Do not hold on to me" in verse 17, reveal about his resurrection and his mission?

4. What is the significance of Jesus first appearing to women after his resurrection.
5. How does Jesus calling Mary by name (vs 16) speak to you about God's personal care and attention in your own life?
6. In the Sermon, James shared Alistair Begg's story of the thief on the cross arriving in heaven without anything to prove him deserving of being there and him telling the angel... "The man on the middle cross said I could come." This story emphasizes that Salvation is not based upon our effort, but the work of Christ as demonstrated in the Gospels. In what ways does that illustration resonate with you?

What are different ways we can feel we need to earn our salvation?

7. We celebrate the Life Jesus gives at Easter. In John 10:10, Jesus says He came so that we could have life in s What does this "Abundant Life" of Jesus look like in practical terms?

John 20:11-18 (NLT)

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher"). "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 (NIV)

[Jesus] appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also...

Shūsaku Endō

If you don't believe in the resurrection, you will be forced to believe that something hit the disciples that was every bit as amazing, maybe different, yet of equal force, in its electrifying intensity. For if we try to explain the changed lives of the early Christians, you will find yourself making leaps of faith as great as if we had believed in the resurrection to start with.

John 20:1-2 (NLT)

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

John 20:9-10 (NIV)

(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Luke 5:32 (NLT)

I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."