

Small Group Discussion Guide

A Seismic Sunday

Matthew 28:1–10 | Easter Sunday

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon opened with a “I remember exactly where I was when…” moment. Share one of yours. What made that event feel so world-altering?

- Does sharing that kind of memory help you connect emotionally with what Mary Magdalene and the other Mary experienced that first Easter morning?

2. Matthew uses the word “seismic” (earthquake) to describe both the physical event and the trembling of the guards. What do you think Matthew wants us to understand by using the same word for both?

- The sermon noted: “The living become as the dead while the dead is revealed to be living.” What does this irony say about where real power lies?
- Do you think God still acts powerfully on behalf of Christians? How so? In what ways have you experience the power of God in your life?

3. The angel’s first words to the women were “Do not be afraid.” Jesus’ first words to them were the same. Why do you think fear is the first thing addressed at the resurrection?

- Have you experienced a fear that was transformed by faith?
- In times when we experience fear, what are some ways to overcome it?

4. Jesus tells the women to go to Galilee — their home — to find him. What does it mean to you that Jesus meets us in the ordinary places of our daily lives rather than calling us out of them?

- Where is the everyday place where you most need to encounter the risen Jesus?

5. The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out, but so others could see the empty tomb for themselves. Why is this an important detail?

- What truth have you discovered about when you encountered the stone that is rolled away?

6. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15 that “death is swallowed up in victory.” Do you fear death? Does the resurrection give you assurance?

- What fear in your life right now is God inviting you to bring before the resurrection? Pray for one another about those fears.

7. At Easter, the claim is often made that “the resurrection changes everything?” Is this just a cliché, have you found this to be true in your life, In what way? Share with the group.
