

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP CURRICULUM

Week 21 - May 20 through May 26

TODAY'S LESSON: *"The Resurrection of Jesus"*

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Matthew 28:1-7 (NLT) 1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. 5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: What did you learn from what we just read?

1) The resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our Christian faith.

- Resurrection (anastasis): rising up from the dead, rising up or standing again
- The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our Christian faith, confirming Jesus' divinity, victory over sin and death, and offering hope, redemption, and empowerment to all believers.
- The resurrection provides assurance of life after death.
- Understanding the importance of the resurrection is essential for every part of our Christian faith and life.

1 Corinthians 15:13-14 (NLT) 13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.

- In rising from the dead, Jesus proved that he was not merely a wise teacher or a prophet but the Messiah and the Savior of the world. His resurrection is the fulfillment of this prophecy, confirming His identity as the promised Messiah.

Matthew 16:21 NLT From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

- When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity as the Son of God and his work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation.

Romans 4:24-25 NCV 24 but also for us. God will accept us also because we believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: Discuss the significance of the resurrection of Jesus in the life of a believer. How does it impact our faith, hope, and daily living?

2) Through Christ's resurrection, we have victory over sin and death.

- Through His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death, therefore as believers in Jesus Christ we too can overcome sin and experience eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (NLT) 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Because of Jesus' resurrection, we can be declared righteous before God and have a restored relationship with Him.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (NLT) 20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. 21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: Have you ever been able to defeat sin and death on your own? What does it mean to you that Jesus has won the victory over sin and death?

3) Hold on to the promise.

- What word has Jesus given you? Continue to believe it, speak it, and wait in faith for it, because it will come to pass... Just as He said!
- When you have a word from the Lord, no matter how dead it may seem, Resurrection is coming! It will happen, just as He said it would!
- Remember His promise! Don't be afraid. Speak it and share it with others! When it happens, you will have a testimony that glorifies Jesus.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: How can we boldly proclaim the message of Christ's resurrection, just as the women at the tomb were instructed to do? Is there a word from the Lord that you are holding onto? What scriptures are you standing on and declaring?

CLOSING QUESTION: What is one thing from today's lesson that you will apply this week?

GIVING

God gives special grace to those who give willingly and sacrificially, especially in challenging seasons.

2 Corinthians 8:3 (NLT)

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

Encourage everyone to give their tithes and offerings.