

Looking for helpful resources?

The Bible Project



Free Commentary



Read

In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Recall--What's the Sermon Big Idea? Easter isn't about just believing Jesus came back to life—it's believing he came to give us new life.

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. Luke mentions that the first witnesses were women. John's account focuses almost entirely on Mary Magdalene's personal encounter with the risen Jesus. What does it tell us about Jesus that he appeared first to a woman — someone who in first-century culture would not have been considered a credible legal witness? What does this tell us about the truthfulness of the Easter story?
2. Read Luke 9:22, 9:43–45, and 18:31–34. Jesus predicted his suffering at least three times in increasing detail. Why do you think the disciples still didn't grasp it when it actually happened? Jesus says he 'must' suffer — this means it was a divine necessity. This wasn't an accident or tragedy that got out of hand.

What does it mean that the suffering of Jesus was part of God's deliberate plan? How does knowing the cross was a divine necessity rather than a tragic accident change the way you read or feel about the crucifixion story?"

3. The angels gave the women one command at the empty tomb — 'Remember.' Why do you think remembering the words of Jesus mattered, even with the physical evidence of the empty tomb right in front of them.

Have you ever had a Scripture or teaching come back to you years later with sudden new meaning? What does that experience tell you about how God uses his Word over time?

Heart: Grasping the Internal Transformation

Goal: To examine how the Gospel reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations.

4. The sermon opened with the idea that most of us carry some form of inner emptiness — empty hope, empty purpose, a quiet void that's hard to name. Can you relate to that feeling? What does that kind of emptiness typically look like in your own life?
5. The sermon closed with this thought — 'The only tomb that matters is already empty, and because it is, you don't have to be.' How does the resurrection speak directly into that emptiness? What does it practically look like to draw on resurrection hope in those seasons?"
6. The disciples who had walked closest to Jesus for three years were the ones who doubted most when the women reported the empty tomb. Can you relate to their skepticism? What has doubt looked like in your own faith journey? Do you think doubt and skepticism can actually move someone closer to God rather than further away? Can you share an experience?

Hands: Grasping Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out. How can I take a step of action in the next week to walk more faithfully as a disciple?

7. Peter didn't have all the answers — he just ran toward the tomb to see for himself. Is there a question, doubt, or area of Scripture you have been avoiding or afraid to explore in your own faith? What would it look like to further investigate it?
8. The message shared that Jesus' resurrection offers us new life that changes how we approach every area of life — fears, identity, peer pressure, pain, guilt, shame, and suffering. What is one area where you most desire to see resurrection power shape and form you? What would it look like to actively invite Christ into that area this week?