

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: Resurrection

John 20:1-20

April 11 & 12, 2020

This discussion guide is written in three sections. The first is for private/individual reflection. The second is for couples or for small groups who may be meeting via video or phone. The third contains questions for family discussion. As many of you are sheltering in place, we encourage you to continue to read the passage and study it throughout the week. This way you can meditate on new truths each day and discover new things God might teach you in his word.

Section 1: Individual Reflection

1. The pandemic of Covid-19 has shaken up our entire reality. In similar ways, the gospel, when active in our lives, shakes up our entire reality. Take a moment to consider and list three or four of the major ways your reality has been changed by the virus and by the gospel.
2. Why is it so important that the resurrection be something that really, actually happened? What evidence do we have from the gospel account in John 20 that it did indeed actually happen?
3. Like being given mouthwash for your bad breath, the gift of Jesus is an offensive one, but a good one. Jesus' death is what was needed because we are so deeply broken. What are some of the major themes of sin in your life - how do you see/know that your heart is rotten?

4. As much as our hearts are rotten, in need of Jesus cleansing blood, we are also considered beloved by Jesus. How is Jesus' description of you as "the one he loved" different from how you often feel? Where do you place your identity? Do you place it in your shortcoming, your accomplishments & achievements, or do you place it in Jesus' sacrifice?

5. Consider how this sermon affects our head, heart and hands. What does the passage teach us - what knowledge/information do we gain from this passage (head)? What does this passage show us about our sinfulness and how our affections need to be changed by the gospel (heart)? How should this passage change our actions - what do we need to do or think in our everyday life because of these truths (hands)?

Section 2: Couple/Small Group Discussion

1. What portions of the sermon were most significant and helpful to you? Summarize some of your answers from the previous section.

2. In the story, we learn that when Mary realized Jesus was alive, right in front of her, she wanted to hold on to him. What did Jesus tell her and how does that inform our new reality and mission?

3. Adam said that biblical faith, faith in Jesus' work and mission, is for the transformation of the world. What does that mean and how does it change your perspective?

4. One of the greatest truths and hope of Easter is that in Jesus' nail pierced hands and feet he is undoing death and pain and making all things new. What makes this such good news? Where do you feel the need of this in your life?

Part 3: Family Discussion

1. Share with your kids your reflections from Sections 1 and 2. Ask them to share some of their highlights and see if they can summarize the sermon.
2. As a part of your family discussion take the time to read the entire narrative of holy week from one of the gospels (or if it would be easier for your young family, just read the account of the crucifixion and resurrection). Discuss the things that stand out upon reading the account again. Who from the story do you and your kids feel you can relate to most?
3. Easter is another great time to ask your kids where they stand with Jesus. Like the illustration of the mouth wash, do they understand their “bad breath” and feel their need for Christ? Do they also know, believe and feel the beauty of being called “loved” by Jesus?