



Easter: The Empty Tomb Speaks

Empty Tomb – Full Life Matthew 28:1-10



Reflection and Discussion Guide

Resurrection Life

I. The empty tomb speaks...

1. ... to the _____

“There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.” v.2 (NIV)

“The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.” v.4 (NIV)

Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.” John 11:25 (NIV)

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...” Philippians 3:10a (NIV)

2. ... to the _____

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.’” v.5-6 (NIV)

3. ... to the _____

“Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee...’” v.7 (NIV)

II. The Easter message is one of...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

III. With whom am I sharing this Good News?

Intro: What do you like to do first thing on Sunday mornings? What's your favorite kind of news? Why?

Read: Matthew 28:1-15

Discuss: 1. Who are the first people to visit the tomb? Why do you suspect that is?

2. How do you think these people were feeling as they walked toward the tomb? What challenges might they have expected to face upon arriving there? (see 27:60, 65-66)

3. How do you think they felt after they met the angel and left the tomb? How might they have felt when they met Jesus? What's the significance of why Jesus appeared to these women before he appeared to his disciples?

4. How would the guards' report have differed from the women's report?

5. Why would the chief priests and elders have bribed the guards with a large sum of money?

6. Upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, how do the disciples respond? Why is their worship mingled with doubt? What is it that they doubt?

7. How did the reality of Jesus' resurrection dawn on you?

8. How would you argue against the following ideas:
a. The disciples stole the body?
b. That Jesus only swooned on the cross and revived in the cool tomb?
c. That the resurrection was simply a legend that caught on?

9. If a friend who is investigating matters of faith asks you the difference that Easter makes, what would you say?

10. What is it that connects with you about the message of Easter as it communicates love, hope and grace? Is there a particular aspect that resonates with you? Why?