

## Connection Group Questions

For the week of April 20, 2025

**Easter Message: *"Because He Lives Our Faith is Valid"***

Passages: Luke 24:36-49

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

### Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. How would you have reacted on Easter morning if you had been the first one who discovered the stone had rolled away and the tomb was empty? Could you say with confidence that your faith would've been bolstered and your initial response would've been one of *hope* when you looked inside?

### Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read Luke 24:36-49. The reality of the risen Jesus.**
  - Are there any aspects from Sunday's message or these verses that stand out to you?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 and Luke 24:30-35. After His resurrection, Jesus appears to many people.**
  - Scripture interprets scripture. So how do these passages lend even more credibility to this week's verses in Luke 24:36-49?
  - What do these passages collectively teach us about the nature of faith and doubt?
4. **As followers of Christ, why is it of the utmost importance that we believe He fully and physically rose from the dead?** Read John 2:18-22; 1 Corin. 15:3-4; 14-15; 17; 1 Thess. 4:14; Philippians 3:10-11.
  - If the resurrection never happened, what pillars of our faith would completely crumble? Read Romans 6:23 and 1 Corin. 15:12-19.
  - How do we know God's wrath was fully satisfied? Read Romans 3:22-26; Romans 4:25.
  - Is it possible to be a Christian and not believe in the resurrection? Does it really matter? Why are there some people who struggle to believe this truth?
5. **Why is it so important not to merely know the facts of the resurrection, but also to know its power? What exactly is its power?** Read Romans 4:25; 8:34; Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:18-20.
  - Why is sound doctrine so important to our faith? Should there ever be any room for open-mindedness? Read Titus 1:9; 2:1 and 1 Timothy 4:16 and 1 Timothy 6:3-6.
6. **In verses 36-39, Jesus appears to His disciples with the greeting *"Peace to you!"***
  - What thoughts would have been going through your mind if you were standing there and heard Jesus say these words?
  - Though Jesus knows His disciples are startled and afraid, do you think there might be a much deeper meaning here than just a simple, calming salutation? Read Romans 5:1.
7. **In 2 Corinthians 1:20, Paul tells us God will do everything He promises.**
  - Why are God's promises only found and fulfilled in Christ? Why aren't they established in anything or anyone else? Read 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 10:12-14.

8. **In verses 44-49, Jesus declares the gospel and opens their minds to the Scripture.**
  - Because He lives, our faith is valid. So, what is the overall message of salvation? Read Acts 17:30-31 and Romans 10:8-10 and Romans 10:11-13.
  - What does it mean to have our minds open to the Scriptures? What are the rewards in our faith and our lives when we do? Read Psalm 119:18; John 14:26; Colossians 2:3.
9. **Consider the theological weight the resurrection carries in the New Testament.**
  - Why is it significant that His death and resurrection was *all foretold* in the Old Testament? Read Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 53:10-11; Daniel 12:1-4.
  - Discuss how this proves the Old Testament is essential and foundational to the death and resurrection of Jesus and is not inseparable or contradictory but affirms Jesus' authority, foreshadowing Him as the Messiah.

### **Application for the Week**

There is abundant hope and life from knowing Jesus has risen and is alive. This is the power of the gospel. It is a reminder of God's truth that the resurrection isn't just some incident or an annual event but the person of Jesus Christ. This week, take a moment to remember our risen Savior with all the awe and wonder of those who witnessed it, and let not your heart be troubled. Our King has conquered death and paved the way for us to be in right standing with God and there is simply no better news that could ever be found. Our response is to daily cling to Jesus with a heart of ongoing repentance while boldly proclaiming His name with the Good News of the gospel.

### **How Your Group Can Pray This Week**

Pray with a heart of gratitude that God poured out His grace on sinners and we are forgiven because of Christ's sacrificial work on the cross and His resurrection. The Word of God, the message that embodies Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection, changes everything. It is full of hope and all life-giving. Because He lives, our faith is valid. Pray, thanking God for His amazing victory over sin and death, always remembering that Christ poured out His gifts to us through His Holy Spirit so that we can move forward with the mission of advancing the gospel.

### **How We Can Be Praying for New Heights This Week**

The excitement of Easter morning is like no other day as we celebrate together the hope and wonder of our risen Savior who conquered death and provided a way for us to be alive in Him. It is only *"because of His great mercy that He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."* (1 Peter 1:3-5). This week, pray that we will tap into the power of the resurrection, calling on the name of the Lord for continued growth in our trust, faith, and obedience, moving us forward to a greater likeness to Christ.