



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Matthew 28:1-20

Introduction: In this passage, the resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples. He first appears to Mary Magdalene and his mother Mary. Jesus instructs them to share the news of his resurrection and to gather his disciples. At the same time, rumors are spread that Jesus' disciples had stolen his body. Ultimately, this passage invites us to examine the truth of Jesus' resurrection and consider its significance in our lives.



Into the Word

Based on this account, what historical evidence is there for Jesus' resurrection? Does it matter that the Gospel accounts were written within a lifetime of these events?

Compare: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Note: Ironically, the counsel's rumor proves that the tomb was truly empty.

Resource: Historical Evidence for the Resurrection

Verse 17 tells us that when the disciples saw Jesus some worshiped him but others doubted. **Read Luke 24:36-48.** How does Jesus approach those who are doubting?

Consider verses 18-20. What does Jesus claim about himself in this passage?



Into the Heart

The Gospels tell us that when the disciples saw the resurrected Jesus they were filled with wonder, fear, joy, confusion, and even doubt. How are you responding to the news of Jesus' resurrection? Why are you responding this way?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-20. How does Jesus' bodily resurrection give us hope?

Resource: Christ's Resurrection and Ours



Into the World

What obstacles might people have to believe in the resurrection of Jesus? How can we help people overcome these obstacles?

How is Christianity different than other world religions or secular philosophies?

Resource: I Believe in the Death of Julius Caesar and the Resurrection of Jesus



Growth Group Prayer Guide

“He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25)

Use the prayers below to root your prayer for one another in Scripture.

Heavenly Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, according to the riches of your glory, grant us (or _____) to be strengthened with power through your Spirit, so that Christ may dwell in our (his, her) heart(s) through faith —that being rooted and grounded in love, we (he, she) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that we (he, she) may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Based on Ephesians 3:15-19)

God of hope, fill us (or _____) with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we (he, she) may abound in hope. (Based on Romans 15:13)

Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort our hearts (or the heart of _____) and establish us (him, her) in every good work and word. (Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Lord Jesus, may your grace be with us (or _____). (Based on 1 Corinthians 16:23)

Lord God, may the sharing of our (or _____) faith become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us (him, her) for the sake of Christ. (Based on Philemon 1:6)

May we (or _____) not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our (his, her) requests be made known to you, O God. And may your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our (his, her) heart(s) and mind(s) in Christ Jesus. (Based on Philippians 4:6-7)

*“Prayer is nothing but taking God’s promises to him, and saying to him, “Do as thou hast said.”
Prayer is the promise utilized.” - Charles Spurgeon*