

Back To Life
Matthew 28:1-20

Directions: Begin your group with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you read with fresh eyes and see anything that He wants you to know or do. Pray to be obedient to whatever He reveals or asks you to do.

OPENER: Share how Easter affected you or a loved one this year. Was there something from the Scripture passage or sermon that was new or impactful?

1. Pastor Dave mentioned that the spring of 2022 is a time where a lot of us are “getting back to life” after the pandemic. Is the life you are getting back to the life you actually want to have? Are you the person you want to be? Take a few minutes to quietly reflect on that personal question, and then share your answers with the group.
2. The resurrection of Christ changes everything! Easter tells us that death doesn’t have the final word. Believing that truth, we have a life of hope. It doesn’t mean that life is perfect all the time, but rather, that we can walk through the hardest times in life WITH hope. Share how the hope of Christ has helped you to walk through difficult times and enabled you to persevere. Who is someone in your life that needs hope? Commit to pray for them, and for the opportunity to share hope with them!
3. Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. Easter is the ultimate statement that even our worst sins – the things that have harmed other people the most, the things we feel the most regret over – can be forgiven, simply by trusting in Christ. Because we’ve been forgiven, we are also empowered to be forgiving people. Share how the grace and forgiveness of God has changed the way you respond to those who have hurt you. Spend some time together in prayer, thanking God for His great love and forgiveness you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be a more forgiving person. If the Spirit reveals any bitterness or hurt you are holding onto, pray that you would be obedient to forgive that person.
4. Read **Matthew 28:18-20**. The resurrection of Jesus gives our lives purpose. Discuss with your group Jesus’ commission to his believers. Pay special attention to the specific action words: “**Go, make disciples, baptizing, and teaching.**” How would you say you are doing in terms of living life with purpose? How could you make changes so that you are living more purposefully?
5. End your time together in prayer, praying specifically that the resurrection of Christ would continue to shape the person you are becoming. Pray that you would extend hope, forgiveness, and purpose to those that He has placed in your life.