



Promise

Message Discussion Guide

Easter 2024

Icebreaker: Share with your group what some have been your Easter traditions or experiences

Key Scripture: Isaiah 43:19, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 28:20b, Matthew 6:31-33, John 14:2, John 3:16

1. In Mark 9:31, Jesus says he will rise 3 days after he is killed. Our message quoted the late Tim Keller. *"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said. If he didn't rise, then why worry about anything that he said. The issue on which everything hangs is not whether you like his (Jesus') teaching, but whether or not he rose from the dead."* Discuss in your group how you understand his reasoning. Do you agree? Disagree?
2. Discuss in your group the questions you all have had with the story of Jesus raising from the dead. Talk together about how the questions have been answered (or not) and how that process has affected your faith journey.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Here is our first Easter promise. How do you interpret this passage? Has having Jesus in your heart and life given you a new life? Have you become a new person? Would others say you are a new person? What is different in your eyes? How does it feel?
4. Our second Easter promise is that Jesus is with us always. Read Matthew 6:31-33. How are you at not worrying? What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is with you always? Have you experienced that in times of trouble and grief in your life? How would you describe how you knew God was with you?
5. Our third promise is that Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for you and me. John 14:2. What comfort and hope do you find in this promise? Does your belief affect how you live today? How you treat others? How would you/have you responded to someone who said they do not believe this? How would you encourage someone around this matter of faith?

Prayer: Gracious God, how grateful and thankful we are for your Son, Jesus Christ! Thank you for the new life we have because he gave his life for us. Thank you for sending him to us so that we could see how he lived and loved among us. We long to be like him. We long to love as he loves. Thank you for your Holy Spirit who is our Comforter, our Wisdom and our Peace. Grant that we will grow closer to you and to each other by your holy power and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.