

“A.D. The Bible Continues”- Wk 2
“The Reality of the Resurrection”
New Life Community Church

INTRODUCTION

This week we examine the events that transpired between the empty tomb and Christ’s ascension to Heaven. Now that the reality of the resurrection was evident, what would Jesus’ followers do? Jesus final days on earth were filled with instruction, encouragement and restoration. This period of time set into motion the formation of the Christian church. It also direct us as members of Christ’s church today in how we are to respond in light of the reality of the resurrection.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Do you typically accept statements as truth, or are you the type of person who has to see for yourself to believe something?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

I Can Overcome My Struggles

Q1. Read Matthew 28:1-10; 2 Peter 1:3

Not long after Lazarus was raised to life, Jesus was crucified and laid in the tomb. As some of the women who followed Him approached the tomb, they encountered an angel in Matthew 28:2. They were met with a startling new reality of Jesus’ resurrection. How can you explain their emotional reaction in verse 8? Have you ever been fearful when faced with a new reality in your own life? What actions or steps help you to overcome fear in the midst of pain or the uncertainty of life?

I Can Tell My Friends

Q2. Matthew 28:16-20; 5:16

Before he departed to heaven, Jesus gave final instructions to his disciples. What actions does He direct his disciple to take in Matthew 28:19 -20? What is the basis for fearlessly following His great commission? (Matthew 28:18). Not only did Jesus assure the disciples that He had authority of all heaven and earth, but He also assured them of what else? Has the knowledge that Jesus is with you always helped you in ‘letting your light shine before men’?

I Can Express my Doubts

Q3. Read John 20:24-29

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples when Thomas was not present. When He appeared again, what did He say to Thomas? Jesus knew what Thomas needed in order to believe in Him. He also knows what we need to believe. What does Jesus’ response to Thomas mean to you? Are there areas of your life where you need Jesus to ‘show up’ now?

I Can Build My Faith

Q4. Read 2Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1, 6; 1Peter 1:8

It is one thing to ‘believe’, and another thing to act on that belief because we trust it or have ‘faith’ in it. What does Hebrews 11:6 explain about the role of faith in our relationship with God? What is the result of choosing to believe God, even when we don’t see Him, according to 1 Peter 1:8? Is that something you feel you have experienced personally?

I Can Trust My Future

Q5. Read John 21:15-17; Romans 6:4; 1John 1:9; Acts 1:4-5

When Peter was arrested he denied Jesus three times. But the risen Christ restored His relationship with Peter who had been ashamed and defeated by what he had done. Not only did Jesus restore the relationship, He called Peter into a new future relationship based on a new reality of His resurrection, and on His power and presence to come at Pentecost. Have you ever felt like Peter in failing to live up to the love you thought you had for Jesus? How has the loving kindness and forgiveness of God restored you and empowered you serve Him afresh?

WRAP-UP

The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! Jesus told His followers not to be afraid, but to await His empowering Holy Spirit and then go and tell the world the Good News. He offered Thomas what he needed to stop doubting and believe. And He restored the relationship broken by Peter’s denials. Jesus loves us and wants us to stop doubting and believe so we might have inexpressible joy. And He assures us that He will be with us always as He sends us to go and tell the world that the resurrection is real, and that He is alive!

Memory Verse

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:29 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge: This week watch for an opportunity to go and tell others the good news.

Q1

Read Matthew 28:1-10 in your Bible

2Peter 1:3 ESV 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Q2

Matthew 28:16-20 ESV - 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 5:16 ESV 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Q3

John 20:24-29 NIV - 24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Q4

2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV - 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Hebrews 11:1, 6 ESV - 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ... 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

1 Peter 1:8 ESV - 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

Q5

John 21:15-17 ESV - 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Romans 6:4 ESV 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1John 1:9 ESV 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 1:4-5 ESV - 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Prayer requests con't
