

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Christ is Risen! He is alive! The tomb is empty! I am free! Now what? What happens next? We experience the resurrection of Jesus Christ and know he has broken the power of sin and death, yet these things still remain. That is because the work of the resurrection continues. The work of reconciliation and salvation is ongoing. It is all a work in progress, we are all works in progress. And we can all experience the ongoing grace of Christ that transforms us, that resurrects us, in many seasons of life. Join us as we turn to the people in Scripture that Christ visited after his resurrection, to see how Christ transformed their grief, fear, doubt, and shame. Even as we experience these things under the reality of COVID-19, these testimonies remind us that God is faithful and give us hope that God is still making us new.

Message Synopsis

While it is still dark, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb to find that the stone is rolled away. Jesus' body is not there. She assumes someone moved or stole his body, and because she doesn't know where they laid him, she weeps. When the resurrected Christ appears to her, weeping, she mistakes him for a gardener. It is not until he calls her by name that Mary recognizes Jesus, and her weeping is turned to joy. Sometimes when we do not have an answer to how or why certain things happen, all we can do is grieve and weep. Sometimes all we can do is name how we are feeling and cry out. But do you recognize the Christ standing right beside you? Do you recognize the gardener of new life?

Key Scriptures

John 20:1-18

Questions Related to This Week's Message

Consider watching the following videos at home before meeting with your group to help encourage and enhance your discussion.

"Hope In Suffering" by IF:Gathering (located in "Renovation group conference sessions")

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/229306>

"Bring Your Emotions to the Cross" by RightNow Team (located in "Renovation Group Training Sessions")

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/198186?p=214063>

1. Where do you long to see transformation in our world or in your life right now?
2. What are you grieving? What are you despairing? If you could name one word for how you are feeling right now, what would it be? How does it feel to share that now?
3. Reread John 11:17-27. Note that Jesus weeps over the death of his friend. Even though he knew Lazarus would be alive again in moments, and though he knew the eternity of the kingdom of God that he was introducing, he still wept. "Knowing the end of the story doesn't mean you can't cry at the sad parts."
 - a. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus joins in our pain and grief?
 - b. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus desires a friendship with you just like his friendship with Lazarus?
4. In one of the videos this week came the phrase "Hope Heals." What does this mean for you right now?
 - a. Read Proverbs 13:12 and Romans 5:1-5
 - b. How can you have hope for an uncertain future and how can that hope be healing and not disappointing (what makes the difference)?
 - c. What are you hoping for today?

Family-Related Questions:

1. We often fall into the trap of trying to fix our kids problems, but sometimes the best thing we can do is simply to help them explore and work through a wide variety of emotions. It's ok to feel angry, sad, lonely, confused, frustrated, afraid, left out, disappointed, etc. Jesus felt these things too. Missing friends and graduations and trips and special events and other opportunities is hard. How can you step back from "fixing mode" and help your children to work through their grief and other feelings this week?
2. The great hymn writer Thomas Chisholm claimed "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow" (Great Is Thy Faithfulness). Without "fixing," without diminishing your children's feelings, and without making empty promises about the future, how can you inject hope into your kid's situations today?