

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

The disciples fear for their lives. They are known as followers of Jesus, this so called "King of the Jews." And if the authority of the day would put him to death to kill his revolutionary message and movement, then surely, they would come for his closest followers next. The resurrected Jesus appears to them behind locked doors and says, Peace be with you! Notice the opposite of fear is not the absence of the threat, but peace in the midst of it. Jesus comes to stand with them in their fear, and empowers them with the Holy Spirit to comfort, strengthen, and sustain them. Jesus doesn't immediately remove the threat of death but comes to be with them in the midst of the threat, and to offer a way for resurrected living; that is, hope, new life, and strength in the presence of suffering and death.

Key Scriptures

John 20:19-23

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.

"Overcoming Anxiety During COVID-19" by Jonathan Pokluda (located in "Renovation Group Bible Studies")

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/394369?episode=1>

1. What is one of your greatest fears? How does this great fear play into little fears that you have on a daily basis?

2. What does Scripture say (if anything) about these specific fears? Use a concordance, Bible app, Google, and others in your group to find what God says about the fears you mentioned in Question 1.
3. What brings you peace in the midst of the uncertainty, isolation, and suffering of a global pandemic? Or in the words of preacher and pastor, Barbara Brown Taylor, what is saving your life right now? If nothing, what can we do to help?
4. How are you feeding your fears right now? How are you feeding your faith? What commitment can you make (and steps can you take) to spend more time in the latter and less time in the former?
5. Choose a few of the following Scriptures and reflect upon God's deliverance when His people were afraid (and what other Scriptures come to mind?)...

Exodus 6:6 and 14:21-22; 1 Samuel 17; Daniel 3 and 6; Jonah 1:15-2:10; John 5:2-9; John 9; Mark 7:32-35

Then read Matthew 6:31-34 about God's promise to you in the midst of your fear. Do you believe it (I mean, really) – do you believe it enough so that you LIVE it? Why or why not?

Family-Related Questions:

1. At least when our kids are young, we are often the thing in this world that makes them feel the most safe and secure. But you can't always be there to help your kids find the courage to face this world. Discuss ways you can give them the same kind of courage to trust in God when they're afraid?
2. Have your kids ever seen you afraid (or have you ever talked about a time when you were afraid)? How did you respond? What did your kids learn from the experience? How did it impact them to know that you get afraid too?