

EASTER

Easter 2018

Small Group Questions: What Easter Says To Me

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Read

John 3:16, 14:1–2 and 20:1–9; Romans 3:22–24, 5:6–8 and 6:23; Mark 15:37 and 1 Corinthians 2:9

Reflect

When Mary Magdalene finds the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning, she runs to tell the disciples. She believes someone has stolen Jesus' body. Peter and John run to see for themselves and discover the body missing and the linen burial wrappings folded separately from the cloth covering Jesus' head. Until the empty tomb, the disciples have misunderstood the Scriptures stating Jesus would rise from the dead. Have you ever wondered what it was like to be there that first Easter Sunday? To be a part of Jesus' great miracle? Would your faith be stronger if you had been there to witness it?

Pastor Greg highlights three things the empty tomb tells us:

1. God's love is unconditional.
 - a. Do you have any truly unconditional relationships in your life? Explain.
 - b. What expectations do you place on God?
 - c. Think of your closest relationships. What expectations/stipulations do you put on them, and what expectations do you feel are placed on you?
 - d. In your life, how has God shown you his love is unconditional?
2. God's power is bigger than my problems.
 - a. Jesus' disciples scattered, their hopes and dreams shattered when Jesus dies. When have you given up hope, only to find that God had a bigger plan?
 - b. How has God provided his power to you, even in the hardest of times?
3. God's future is better than my past.
 - a. What aspects of your life are hard to understand right now? Do you wonder what God is doing?
 - b. What stumbling blocks prevent you from trusting that God has a plan for you?
 - c. Do you believe if the rulers in Jesus' time knew what was going to happen, they would've crucified him?
 - d. Do you believe the future God has planned can be better than anything in your past? Why or why not?
 - e. How has God surprised you with a different plan—one that surpassed your hopes?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?