

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Resurrection Sunday

- Share any fun traditions you do as a family for Easter.
- Share any creative ideas you had this Resurrection Sunday while you celebrated Easter at home.
- Is anyone surprised by how much of the Gospels are dedicated to the last week of Jesus' life?
 - A third of Matthew (Ch. 21-28)
 - A third of Mark (Ch. 11-16)
 - A third of Luke (Ch. 19-24)
 - Nearly half of John (Ch. 12-20)
- Discuss why you think the Gospels spend so much time on this last week of Jesus’ life? Why is this week so important?
- As a group list some major events that happen during this last week.
- Why do you think we spend so much time celebrating Christmas compared to Easter (or Resurrection Sunday)?
- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

I. The Death of Jesus

- **Read and discuss** Luke 23:44-49
- Why was there darkness over the land? Read the following passages to help answer this question.
 - Genesis 15:12-13
 - Deuteronomy 4:11
 - Exodus 10:21
 - Joel 2:1-2

- Amos 5:20
- Amos 8:9
- What was the response of the people that witnessed this darkness?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote by Kent Hughes.
 - If Matthew had ended at Ch. 27, Mark at Ch. 15, Luke at Ch. 23, and John at Ch. 19, this would indeed be the end of the story. Jesus would have been just another failed messianic pretender who clashed with the Roman Empire and paid the ultimate price for his folly. However, each Gospel adds an additional chapter that changes everything. The story is not yet over, and the world is about to be turned upside down. New creation is about to break into the midst of this old creation, and nothing will ever be the same. – **Kent Hughes**

II. The Burial of Jesus

- **Read and discuss** Luke 23:50-56.
- Why is the burial of Jesus important?
- What do these verses say about Joseph?
- **Read and discuss** John 19:38-42. What extra information do we learn from John's Gospel?
- Why are the details in Luke 23:55-56 so important?

III. The Resurrection of Jesus

- **Read and discuss** Luke 24:1-12.
- Why do you think the disciples were skeptical of the women's testimony even after Jesus had clearly predicted what would happen?
- What portion of Scripture do you struggle believing, even though it is plainly taught? Where in life do you struggle trusting God? What can we learn from the disciples?
- Go through the following verses (one by one) and discuss what each one tells us about the resurrection and what it accomplished.
 - John 2:22
 - Job 19:25
 - Romans 8:11

- 1 Peter 1:3
 - 1 Cor. 15:20
 - Romans 8:34
 - John 5:26-29
 - Acts 17:31
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- **Read Eph. 1:16-20.** Why do you think Paul prayed that the church would know the power of the resurrection?
 - How does this prayer relate to Eph. 2:1 & Eph. 2:4-6?
 - How does this prayer relate to the Garden (especially Gen. 3)?
 - **Read Eph. 2:1.** What does Paul mean when he says that his readers were dead?
 - **Read Eph. 2:4-6.** Are you more alive than the unbelievers you know? If so, how?
 - How does God make dead people come alive?

End prayer

Christ is risen: the world below is in ruins.
Christ is risen: the spirits of evil are fallen.
Christ is risen: the angels of God are rejoicing.
Christ is risen: the tombs are void of their dead.
Christ has indeed arisen from the dead,
The first of the sleepers.
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

-Hippolytus of Rome 170-235 AD